FRIDAY
April 14, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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DEFAMATION CASE

Trial not fair, Rahul's lawyer tells court

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Fear lingers in crowded markets

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Ex-MP Atiq Ahmed's son Asad killed in U.P.

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A pitched battle on BJP's turf

Bellwether polls herald a crucial election season

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ON A ROLL

KKR targets hat-trick as it takes on SRH

SPORT » PAGE 17

Goods exports grew 6%, imports 16.5% in 2022-23

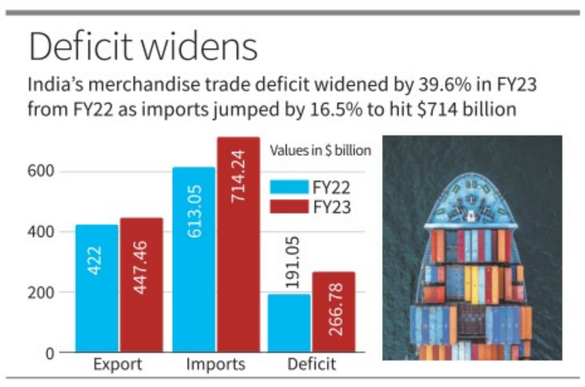
Monthly exports contracted for the fourth time in 6 months this March with a 13.9% drop amid faltering global demand; the goods trade deficit for 2022-23 rose almost 40% from previous year

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's goods exports declined for the second successive month in March, falling a sharp 13.9% to $38.38 billion, while imports dipped 7.9% to $58.11 billion.

Total goods exports in 2022-23 rose 6.03% to $447.46 billion, while the import bill surged by a steeper 16.5% to $714 billion in 2022-23.

The goods trade deficit rose almost 40% to over $266 billion in 2022-23, compared to $190 billion in 2021-22. However, using estimates for services exports during March for which final data will only be available in May, the Commerce and Industry Ministry pegged the total trade deficit for the year at $122 billion, 46% higher than the $83.5 billion gap in 2021-22.



"Despite the global headwinds, we have surpassed our 2022-23 target of $750 billion dollars to hit $770.18 billion, which is $94 billion higher than last year's record exports," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said, using services exports estimates combined with the actual numbers for goods exports. "Services exports have grown 13.84% to an estimated $322.72 billion," he added.

Oil, electronics lead

India's uptick in outbound shipments was largely led by petroleum, up 27% to $94.5 billion, followed by electronics goods that rose 7.9% to $23.6 billion.

The other three of India's top five export items registered insignificant growth: rice (up 1.5%), chemicals (1%), and drugs and pharmaceuticals (0.8%). Petroleum exports now account for 21.1% of total exports, up from 16% in 2021-22.

Engineering goods, India's mainstay in goods exports in recent years, shrank 5.1% to $107 billion, bringing down their share in total exports from 26.6% to 23.9%.

Non-oil exports, in fact, contracted 0.5%, and if electronics exports were excluded too, goods shipments were 2.8% lower than 2021-22, which economists called a red flag.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

'Muslim quota nixed based on fallacious assumptions'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a setback to the BJP government in Karnataka, the Supreme Court on Thursday orally told the State that its order scrapping the 4% OBC quota for Muslims and dividing it between Vokkaliga and Lingayat castes is based on "absolutely fallacious assumptions".

Towards the fag end of its term, the Basavaraj Bommai-led government in Karnataka changed the OBC quota matrix. It cut Muslims out of the 4% OBC quota and distributed it between Vokkaligas and Lingayats at 2% each.

"What strikes me as a student of law is that the order is based on absolutely fallacious assumptions," Justice K.M. Joseph, heading a Bench, observed.

DETAILS
» PAGE 7

BBC India's 'foreign exchange violations' under ED scanner

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has initiated an inquiry into the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) India under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) for suspected violations.

It is learnt that the agency has also asked some BBC India officials to submit the documents which it has to scrutinise as part of the proceedings. On Thursday, one official appeared before the investigators.

The move came about two months after the Income-Tax Department in February surveyed the Delhi and Mumbai offices of the BBC, and allegedly uncovered multiple irregularities, including non-payment of tax on certain remittances that were not disclosed to the authorities as income in India.

ED has reportedly asked for submission of documents.

The surveys were carried out weeks after the BBC had released a two-part documentary *India: the Modi Question*, related to the 2002 Gujarat riots and situation of minorities in India. The I-T Department had then said that the income/profits shown by various group entities was not commensurate with the scale of operations in India.

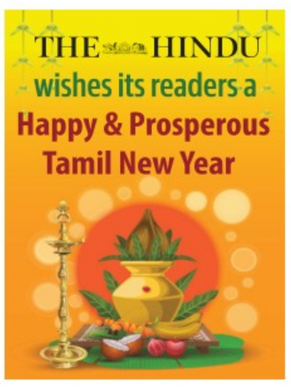
CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

NEARBY

221 candidates file papers on day one

BENGALURU
As many as 221 candidates, including a few Ministers, and 24 women candidates, filed nominations for the May 10 Karnataka Assembly elections on Thursday. » Page 6

METROPLUS » PAGE 9



Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

National highways constructed in India in 2022-23

10, 993 in kilometre. The construction fell 13.7% short of the government's target of 12,500 km. While the pace of the construction of national highways touched a record high of 37 kms a day in 2020-21, it slowed to 30.11 kms a day in 2022-23. PTI

India's exports rise by 6% in 2022-23, says Piyush Goyal

447 In $ billion. The country's exports rose on account of healthy growth in the outbound shipments of sectors such as petroleum, pharma and chemicals and marine, Minister Piyush Goyal said. India's imports also grew by 16.5% to $714 billion in 2022-23 as against $613 billion in 2021-22. PTI

'Domestic passenger vehicle wholesales grew in current fiscal'

26.73 in percentage. With over 38.9 lakh units sold in 2022-23, there was a record high rise in passenger vehicles (PVs) dispatched, due to a demand surge for utility vehicles, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) informed. In 2021-22, 30.69 lakh units of PVs were sold. PTI

Funds released for colleges funded by the Delhi government

100 In ₹ crore. The Delhi government released the first quarter of the Budget funds to 12 colleges run by the government, Delhi Education Minister Atishi informed. ₹361 crore were allocated to these colleges during the Assembly Budget in 2022-23, while ₹308 crore was allocated in 2021-22. PTI

Share by which Ukraine's economy contracted in 2022

29.1 in percentage. The country has been ravaged by Russia's assault, according to official data. The World Bank has said that Ukraine needs $411 billion for its reconstruction and recovery in the wake of the February invasion last year. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The rules for recognition as a national party

What are the conditions under which a political party can lose its standing as a national party? How does a State party gain or lose its status? What are the benefits of recognition?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:
Ahead of the upcoming Karnataka Assembly elections, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) received a shot in the arm from the Election Commission of India, as the poll body accorded it the status of a national party on April 10. Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress (TMC), the Communist Party of India (CPI), and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) lost their national party status. The EC also revoked the recognition of some parties as State parties.

How does a party get recognised as a national party?
The Election Commission reviews the poll performance of recognised parties after every State Assembly election or general election to the Lok Sabha. The rules for recognition as a national party are specified by the Commission in para 6B of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

A party becomes eligible to be accorded national status if it manages to fulfil one of the following conditions: (a) if it is recognised as a State party in at least four States, (b) if it secures 6% of the total votes polled in four States in the last Lok Sabha or Assembly elections, and in addition, gets four of its members elected to the Lok Sabha, or (c) if it wins 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha from at least three States.

Besides this, the Symbols Order of 1968 was amended in 2016 to give parties one additional "pass over". As per this amendment, deemed to have been in force since January 1, 2014, if a national or State party fails to fulfil the eligibility criteria in the next general elections (March 2014 Lok Sabha polls in this case) or the Assembly election after the election in which it received recognition, it will continue to be recognised as a national or State party, meaning it will not be stripped of its status. However, whether it will continue to be recognised after any subsequent election would again have to be determined by the eligibility criteria.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at a meeting after the EC grants a national party status to AAP. ANI

The AAP gained national status after the EC order on Monday, as it was recognised as a State party in four States – Delhi, Punjab, Goa, and Gujarat. Its application with the EC was pending since the Gujarat election results, but a Karnataka High Court order asked the poll body to decide on the party's status before the State Assembly elections were notified.

The Trinamool Congress, which lost its national status on Monday, had gained it in 2016 by virtue of the "pass over" amendment to the Symbols Act. It was a State party in three States – West Bengal, Tripura, and Manipur – but it did not meet eligibility conditions to remain a State party in Arunachal Pradesh in the 2014 General and State elections. However, the Commission did not revoke its State party status, in line with the amendment. In the EC's most recent review, the party did not manage to remain a State party in the required four States – losing its status in Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, while continuing to hold recognition in West Bengal, Tripura, and Meghalaya.

Meanwhile, the NCP lost its recognition in three States (Goa, Manipur, and Meghalaya) where it did not secure enough assembly votes between 2017 and 2018. It is currently a State party in only two States – Maharashtra and Nagaland.

Lastly, the CPI, which was accorded national status in 1989, also retained its status despite its performance in the 2014 Lok Sabha election, courtesy the amendment to the Symbols Act. While the EC held off on its revocation of the party's national status during the pandemic, it was withdrawn on Monday.

What are the criteria to be recognised as a State party?
For recognition as a State party, it has to secure at least 6% of the valid votes polled and two seats in Assembly polls or one in Lok Sabha polls.

There are three other alternatives for eligibility: (a) at General Elections or Legislative Assembly elections, the party has to win 3% of the seats in the legislative assembly of the State (subject to a minimum of 3 seats), (b) at a Lok Sabha General Elections, the party has to win one Lok Sabha seat for every 25 Lok Sabha seats allotted for the State, or (c) at a General Election to the Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assembly, the party has to poll 8% of votes in a State.

Besides, the changes to the state recognitions of the TMC, the NCP, and the CPI, the ECI also revoked State party status granted to the Rashtriya Lok Dal in Uttar Pradesh, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi in Andhra Pradesh, the People's Democratic Alliance in Manipur, the Pattali Makkal Katchi in Puducherry, the Revolutionary Socialist Party in West Bengal and the Mizoram People's Conference in Mizoram.

The Tipra Motha in Tripura, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) in Nagaland and the Voice of the People Party in Meghalaya were granted "recognised State political party" status.

What are the benefits of recognition as national and State parties?
A recognised political party enjoys privileges such as a reserved party symbol, free broadcast time on State-run television and radio, consultation in the setting of election dates, and giving input in setting electoral rules and regulations.

Candidates put up by registered but unrecognised political parties are allotted election symbols by the Returning Officers of the constituencies after the last date for withdrawal of candidature as per availability. Thus, the party cannot use a single poll symbol across the country.

THE GIST

- The Election Commission reviews the poll performance of recognised parties after every State Assembly election or general election to the Lok Sabha. The rules for recognition as a national party are specified by the Commission in para 6B of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.
- For recognition as a State party, it has to secure at least 6% of the valid votes polled and two seats in Assembly polls or one in Lok Sabha polls.
- A recognised political party enjoys privileges such as a reserved party symbol, free broadcast time on State-run television and radio, consultation in the setting of election dates, and giving input in setting electoral rules and regulations.

What is 'Dabba trading' and how does it affect the economy?

Why is the NSE clamping down on 'dabba' traders? How does the informal trading ecosystem evade taxation?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:
In the past week, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) issued a string of notices naming entities involved in 'dabba trading'. The bourse cautioned retail investors to not subscribe (or invest) using any of these products offering indicative/assured/guaranteed returns in the stock market as they are prohibited by law. It added that the entities are not recognised as authorised members by the exchange.

What is 'dabba trading'?
Dabba (box) trading refers to informal trading that takes place outside the purview of the stock exchanges. Traders bet on stock price movements without incurring a real transaction to take physical ownership of a particular stock as is done in an exchange. In simple words, it is gambling centred around stock price movements.

For example, an investor places a bet on a stock at a price point, say ₹1,000. If the price point rose to ₹1,500, he/she would make a gain of ₹500. However, if the price point falls to ₹900, the investor would have to pay the difference to the *dabba* broker. Thus, it could be concluded that the broker's profit equates the investor's loss and vice-versa. The equations are particularly consequential during bull runs or bear market.

The primary purpose of such trades is to stay outside the purview of the regulatory mechanism, and thus, transactions are facilitated using cash and the mechanism is operated using unrecognised software terminals. Other than this, it could also be facilitated using informal or *kaccha* (rough) records, *sauda* (transaction) books, challans, DD receipts, cash receipts alongside bills/contract notes as proof of trading.

Where does it become particularly problematic?
Since there are no proper records of income or gain, it helps *dabba* traders escape taxation. They would not have to pay the Commodity Transaction Tax (CTT) or the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on their transactions. The use of cash also means that they are outside the purview of the formal banking system. All of it combined results in a loss to the government exchequer.

In 'dabba trading', the primary risk entails the possibility that the broker defaults in paying the investor or the entity becomes insolvent or bankrupt. Being outside the regulatory purview implies that investors are without formal provisions for investor protection, dispute resolution mechanisms and grievance redressal mechanisms that are available within an exchange.

Since all activities are facilitated using cash, and without any auditable records, it could potentially encourage the growth of 'black money' alongside perpetuating a parallel economy. This could potentially translate to risks entailing money laundering and criminal activities.

What does the scenario look like?
An industry observer, on the condition of anonymity, confirmed to *The Hindu* that their clients, on entering the dabba ecosystem, were harassed by the broker's 'recovery agents' for default payments and refused payments upon profit.

Other than taxation, as per the source, what lures potential investors is their aggressive marketing, ease of trading (using apps with quality interface) and lack of identity verifications. Depending on the individual's trading profile, observable volumes and trends, brokers keep their fees and margins open to negotiation as well.

The source explained that the mechanism could potentially translate into ripple effects for the regulated bourse as well by inducing volatility when *dabba* brokers look to hedge their exposures (take position in an alternate asset or investment to reduce the risk/loss with the current position). It also contributes to the bourse losing out on volumes, "even though they may not be significant".

'Dabba trading' is recognised as an offence under Section 23(1) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act (SCRA), 1956 and upon conviction, can invite imprisonment for a term extending up to 10 years or a fine up to ₹25 crore, or both.

THE GIST

- *Dabba* (box) trading refers to informal trading that takes place outside the purview of the stock exchanges. Traders bet on stock price movements without incurring a real transaction to take physical ownership of a particular stock as is done in an exchange.
- Since there are no proper records of income or gain, it helps *dabba* traders escape taxation. They would not have to pay the Commodity Transaction Tax (CTT) or the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on their transactions.
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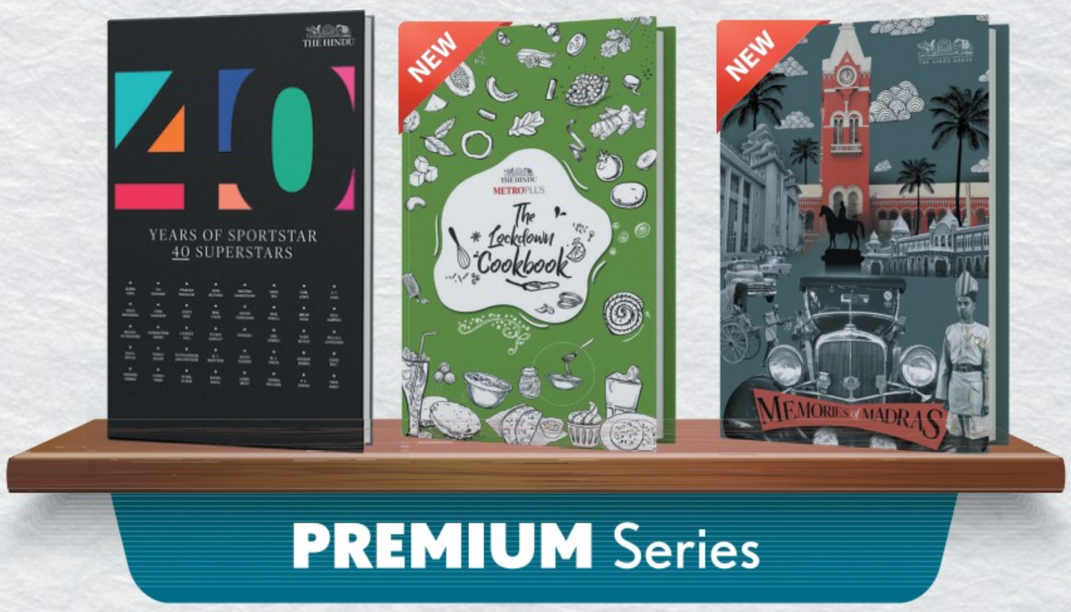

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Learn from Japan on what should be State's concern towards education, HC tells govt.

It castigates officials for not allowing construction of a new building for govt. school from compensation of ₹66.95 lakh received from NHAI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government should learn from Japan on what should be the concern of a State towards the education of a child, said the High Court of Karnataka while castigating the officials for *red tapism* in not allowing construction of new building for a government primary school from the compensation received three years ago for parting away the land and the building for highway project.

The court narrated an incident of how the Japan government, which wanted to close a railway station in a village of Hokkaido Island, kept open the station for three years and operated a train at the cost of the State for the sake of only one girl from the village in the island to help her reach her school and return home till she graduated high school.

The NHAI had acquired land and building of the school for construction of expressway between Bengaluru and Mysuru.
FILE PHOTO

The people round the globe tipped their hats in praise of the Japanese government for making education even of one child a top priority, the court said, while stating that the officers of the State must remember that the right of every citizen matters and no child can be left behind.

"This court would not permit the State to reduce the fundamental right of children for education under Article 21-A of the Constitution of India, to a mere rope of sand," Justice M. Nagaprasanna observed, while directing the government to identify a suitable land and construct a new building for the school by the end of September.

The court passed the order while allowing a petition filed by the School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) of the Government Lower Primary School, Agaralingana Doddi, Maddur taluk, Mandya district, which had sought direction for new land and building for the school.

Story of the school

The National Highways Authority of Indian (NHAI) had acquired land and building of the school for construction of expressway between Bengaluru and Mysuru and paid a compensation of ₹66.95 lakh to the school authorities as the land, donated by the villagers decades ago, was registered in the name of the school.

The SDMC wrote many letters to the Deputy Commissioner, Mandya district, and other authorities of the Education Department, seeking alternative land and permission to construct a new building using the compensation amount.

However, communications were merely forwarded from one officer to another and the only answer the School Development and Monitoring Committee got on multiple occasions was to deposit the compensation amount with the consolidate fund of the State.

While rejecting the government's claim that the SDMC, which is part of the State, cannot file writ petition against the government, the court said that the SDMC has several financial and management responsibilities in law towards supervising the school and it has approached the court espousing the cause of the children after waiting for three years.

'Utmost callousness'

Noticing that the school, having around 25 students from classes I to V, is being operated in a temporary room having no toilet and other basic amenities, the High Court said that "communications between the offices clearly indicate that the right to free and compulsory education of children, particularly in the government school, is treated with utmost callousness."

Two held with ₹1 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police caught two private firm employees carrying unaccounted cash of ₹1 crore. The patrolling police noticed two men getting down from an auto at Kalinga Rao bus stand to get into the bus for Vijayanagar.

The duo started behaving suspiciously. The police found currency bundles stashed in their bags. Praveen and Suresh said they were staff of a consultancy firm and were taking the cash to their clients in Jayanagar. However, there was no consistency in their statements about the source of money.

CINEMA ❖ ARTS ❖ EVENTS

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

SRI RAMA Lalitha Kala Mandira :- Musical Tribute to 125th Year Anniversary Celebration of Sri H. Yoganarasimham Vocal Concert by S.R. Vinay Sharva – Vocal (Rendering of Sri H. Yoganarasimham compositions) Sunday, 16th April 2023, at 5.30 p.m., arranged at the Concert Hall of Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira, BSK II Stage, Bangalore. All are welcome. Courtesy : Vidushi. Neeraja Achyutha Rao. G.V. Krishna Prasad, Hon.Secretary, Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira, Ph: 7760907939.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of General Public that our client **Shri. SANKAR R** s/o. S. Rajendran and **Smt. ESWARI A.P.,** w/o. Sankar R., Both R/at No. 6-326/1, Gandla Street, Santhapet, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh 517 001, are intending to purchase the properties (i) Western Portion of Property bearing Site No. 4, V.P. Khatha No. 277, presently 'B' Khatha Sl. No. 1053, Property No. 277/4 and (ii) Portion of Site No. 5, Khatha No. 277, present BBMP 'B' Khatha Sl. No. 1054, Property No. 277/5, both properties carved out of Sy No. 53/1A of **GARVEBHAVIPALYA, HONGASANDRA DHAKLE, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** which are morefully described in the schedule below as Item Nos. 1 & 2, from their owner/vendor/Mallari Sreenivasulu, aged about 44 years s/o. M. Parameshappa R/at 20, 55/4A, C.N.R. Nilaya, I Main, Munireddy Layout, G.B. Palya, Bangalore 560 069.

Any person or person/s, Government of Karnataka/Block Development Officer/Tahasildar, Financial Institution/s/Co-operative Society Ltd/Statutory bodies/etc., having/asserting any right, title or interest/claims or intending to oppose in purchasing the properties/insists for NOC/etc., in any manner may file their objections to the undersigned within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the Publication of Notice hereof, along with Documentary Proof where after no such claims will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No. 1: -
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Western Portion of Property bearing **Site No. 4,** V.P. Khatha No. 277, presently 'B' Khatha Sl. No. 1053, Property No. 277/4 carved out of Sy No. 53/1A of **GARVEBHAVIPALYA, HONGASANDRA DHAKLE, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** presently comes under BBMP Bangalore, measuring East to West 10 feet, North to South 60 feet, totally measuring **600 square feet** and bounded on the: -
East by : Eastern Portion of Site No. 4 belong to Vijayalakshmi B; West by : Site No. 5; North by : Private Property &; South by : Road:

Item No. 2: -
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Property bearing Portion of **Site No. 5,** Khatha No. 277, present BBMP 'B' Khatha Sl. No. 1054, Property No. 277/5 carved out of Sy No. 53/1A of **GARVEBHAVIPALYA, HONGASANDRA DHAKLE, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** presently comes under BBMP Bangalore, measuring East to West 20 feet, North to South 60 feet, totally measuring **1200 square feet** and bounded on the: -
East by : Site No. 4; West by : Remaining Portion of Site No. 5, which belongs to Y. Narasi Reddy and Padmavathi B Rasi Reddy; North by : Private Property &; South by : Road:

M/s. GANJAM NAGARAJ ASSOCIATES,
Advocates
Office at No. 312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, 6th Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 082.
Dated : 13/04/2023 Bangalore

CCB recovers ₹1 crore worth of valuables from three burglars

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The homicide and burglary squad of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Thursday arrested three house-break thieves and recovered two kilos of gold valuables worth ₹1 crore from them.

The accused have been identified as Jayanthi, 32, from Tamil Nadu, Dangal Singh, 30, from Gujarat, and Amjad, 36, from the city. The accused used to operate separately using different modus operandi, said S.D. Sharanappa, Joint Commissioner of Police, Crime.

Jayanthi is a habitual offender involved in house-break theft cases since 2016 in Hebbal, RT Nagar, and Banaswadi, and in Saidapet in Chennai. She was out on bail and had continued her criminal activities, the police said. The accused used to move around residential areas with a baby seeking job as a domestic help and would watch over locked houses for sometime before breaking into it and stealing valuables. The police recovered 350 gm of gold valuables from her and solved five house-break theft cases with her arrest.

Amjad, who was involved in a double murder case reported in Bagalur in 2012 and was on out bail, continued theft, robbery, and extortion. In 2018, the Magadi road police arrested him in an attempt-to-robbery case and remanded him to judicial custody. He was again out on bail a few months ago and started breaking into locked houses to arrange money for his vices, said the police. Dangal Singh is part of the "Chaddi gang", which operated in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

City Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy appreciated the CCB team led by Hajaresh Killedar for cracking 15 cases in total.

Tobacco sellers should get separate licence: BBMP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city's civic body has decided to implement the newly notified rules to regulate selling tobacco products. Under this, all tobacco sellers have to avail a separate licence to sell the same. The licences will be issued starting from May end, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has said.

"We will start issuing tobacco licence from May end. After that, anyone selling tobacco products without a licence will be penalised or their shops shut down," said K.V. Trilokchandra, Special Commissioner (Health), BBMP.

The licence fee will be ₹500 for a period of five years and the penalty ₹5,000 and ₹100 everyday of the violation later on, BBMP officials said. The vendor will have to display the licence prominently in the shop and ensure there is no public smoking around the shop.

The tobacco licence is part of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Regulation and Inspection of Places used for sale of Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products) Rules, 2020, notified in 2022. Following a circular asking all municipal bodies to implement the same earlier this year, the BBMP has decided to take up its implementation from May end.

Meanwhile, the BBMP has formed task forces at the Assembly-constituency level to check smoking in public areas. The task forces include BBMP officials and police officers. "One of the mandates of these task force is to crack down on hookah bars," Mr. Trilokchandra said.

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from the film, *Taxi Driver*.

An ode to driving heroes: the many 'Taxi Drivers' of Hindi cinema

Taxicabs in films are more than just vehicles of conveyance; often, their drivers share a deep connection with them; the taxi driver reference is notable for another reason: it celebrates a long strain, now fast diminishing, of cabbie movies in Hindi cinema

Shilajit Mitra

In the recent Amazon series, *Jubilee*, Jay (Sidhant Gupta), an aspiring director, pitches a film to ascendant movie star Madan Kumar (Aparshakti Khurana). "A man comes to the big city looking for work, falls in love, drives a taxi," Jay narrates. Betraying the impatience of movie stars obsessed with their own image, Madan tells him to ditch the full narration. "What is my first shot?" he demands instead. So Jay changes tack. He describes a gripping opening scene with the hero escaping in a car. "And then the film's title...", he announces in an animated voice, "Taxi Driver".

Directed by Vikramaditya Motwane and written by Atul Sabharwal, *Jubilee* is full of nods, hat-tips and affectionate salutes to the classics of Indian cinema. The title of Jay's film, for instance, is a direct tribute to a 1954 film starring Dev Anand (the series unfolds in roughly the same period). Later, when Madan refuses to star in the project owing to ego clashes with the financer, Jay decides to go solo, a likely homage to the homegrown ethos of Navketan Films, run by brothers Dev, Chetan and Vijay Anand.

Yet the 'taxi driver' reference is notable for another reason: it celebrates a long strain, now fast diminishing, of cabbie movies in Hindi cinema.

First roads

The sub-genre found ignition in the post-Independence era with Chetan Anand's black-and-white romance, *Taxi Driver*. In the film, Mangal (Dev Anand), a raffish, carefree taxi driver, spins around Mumbai helping strangers in need. Everybody calls him a 'hero', but he is really a working-class hero, an idolised representative of the city's huge blue-collar workforce. This points to a contradiction already embedded in the popular imagination: motorcars, when privately owned, were symbols of status and wealth, yet not quite so when engaged as taxis. It perhaps explains Mangal's indignation when the film's heroine (Kalpana Kartik) takes him for a rich man, since he owns a car. "Motor amiro ki naukar hoti hai, taxi garibo ki annadata," he says. (Motorcars are slaves of the rich, taxis benefactors of the poor).

In *Taxi Driver*, Mangal spends much of his time giving the slip to local goons. An opposite fate awaited Guru Dutt in *Aar Paar*, also released in 1954. In this comic noir, Dutt's character, Kalu, is already in jail when the film begins. He has been arrested for rash driving; the taxi's owner, a Parsi man, won't reinstate him when he gets out. To make ends meet, Kalu falls in with some criminals, becoming their getaway driver for a bank heist. He is part of a tense rehearsal followed by the actual execution of the crime. In both scenes, Dutt's dryness is like a funny 1950s counterpoint to stiff, nervy Ryan Gosling in *Drive* (2011).

After Anand and Dutt, it was a very different actor's turn to get behind the wheel. Comic legend Mehmood is well remembered for his tonga-and-rickshaw-pulling scenes in films such as *Chhoti Bahen* and *Kunwara Baap*. Yet, in 1968, he played a taxi driver named Bajrang in *Sadhu Aur Shaitaan*. The film, a remake of *Sadhu Mirandal* (Tamil), coasts on Mehmood's trademark clowning, yet there are moments of pathos and insight like when Bajrang reveals he is well-educated but could not find a job in a brutal economy. It is also a film that offers us a glimpse into taxi unions: Bajrang and his friends organise a charity play for the PM's fund, and the final sequence is a fleet of black-and-yellow taxis racing to Bajrang's rescue.

Speeding into the 70s

Taxi films held sway over the decades. In 1973, Dev Anand's nephew, Vishal Anand, starred in his own *Taxi Driver* (co-incidentally, both this and *Hanste Zakhm* from the same year feature an honest cab driver hailing from a rich family). And in 1976, it was Dev Anand in the driver's seat again in the remake of the original *Taxi Driver* titled *Jaaneman*. It was a weird affair: Anand, then in his 50s, was an awkward match for twins played by Hema Malini, then 28. The primary pleasure of the films from this era was the appearance of the Fiat Premier, the defining model of the Mumbai *kaali-peeli*.

1976 was also the year Martin Scorsese's *Taxi Driver* released. Paul Schrader's screenplay – about a Vietnam war veteran cruising the streets of the New York City – sent shockwaves around the world, permanently rewriting the DNA of the broody and impressionistic cab film. A year later, in *Taxi-Taxie*, Amol Palekar played his own version of 'God's lonely man'. Like Travis Bickle, Dev (Palekar) lives in a crummy one-room apartment. While the big, bulging metropolis signifies hell for Travis, Dev finds comfort in the company of strangers. He never gets into any violence, yet his ending, in a roundabout way, is comparable to Bickle's: reunited with an ex-flame in his taxi.

For long, taxi drivers in Hindi films had been migrant Hindus. Then, in 1978, a reluctant Muslim made an appearance. In Muzaffar Ali's *Gaman*, Ghulam (Farooq Sheikh) migrates from his village in Uttar Pradesh to find work in Mumbai. Through an old friend, he is inducted into the city's taxi trade. Unlike the fast-moving narratives of other taxi films, *Gaman* sets its own rhythm, reflected in the soft, temperate movements of its leading man. In one scene, Ghulam wearily sits in his cab as a party unfolds in a high-class mansion. The scene has an echo of Ranveer Singh (playing another Muslim driver) waiting in his car in *Gully Boy* (2019).

Of men and machine

Taxicabs in films are more than just vehicles of conveyance; often, their drivers share a deep connection with them. The protagonist of Ritwik Ghatak's *Ajantrik* (1958, Bengali) is a gauche, irritable recluse played by Kali Banerjee. His only bond is with his car, nicknamed 'Jagaddal', whom he grooms, feeds cooling water, and occasionally talks to. In fact, at times, 'Jagaddal' exudes a life of its own. This anthropomorphism of a motorised vehicle was taken to the extreme in a dream sequence in the Hindi film *Khud-Daar* (1982), where Amitabh Bachchan glided over the Mumbai cityscape on a flying taxi. It's a lovely ode to the wonder and uplift of travel – the taxi as magic carpet.

Khud-Daar and *Taxi Driver* (1954) are connected by scenes where the hero rescues a woman in distress. This trend persisted into the 90s. In *Sadak*, a remake of Scorsese's *Taxi Driver*, Sanjay Dutt liberates Pooja Bhatt from the clutches of a sadistic pimp. And in *Raja Hindustani*, Aamir Khan caps his shielding of Karisma Kapoor by lecturing her about her dress. The cliché of the taxi driver as a champion of women's safety was undone by Ashutosh Rana in *Dushman* (1998), where he played a violent rapist.

The new millennium introduced us to the NRI cabbie: Emraan Hashmi in *The Killer*, Rajpal Yadav in *Bhagam Bhag*. The best iteration, nevertheless, was a local specimen. In *Taxi No. 9211*, Nana Patekar played Raghu – a blunt, insufferable, speeding ticket of a man. A remake of *Changing Lanes*, Milan Luthria's comedy held up a mirror to the economic contrasts of Mumbai: while John Abraham's brat is awaiting his inheritance, Raghu has changed multiple jobs and is finally plying his taxi. Patekar, who had a minor role in *Gaman*, makes no bones about his character's frustrations in life. You are more likely to run into a Raghu than a Mangal or Dev on the streets of Mumbai.

There hasn't been a great taxi film in recent years. *Khaali Peeli*, a comic thriller released in 2020, was difficult to buy, hamstrung by the incongruous sight of star kids, Ishaan Khatter and Ananya Panday, zipping around in a taxi.

Ek Villain Returns (2022) had John Abraham approximating an Uber driver – another absurdity. Instead, the authentic Mumbai taxi-wallah now exists in short films. There is a wealth of them on YouTube, from light romances to cautionary tales to gritty social commentaries.

In *Jubilee*, Jay's *Taxi Driver* is a success (just as Dev Anand's eponymous movie was in its time). We see a delighted young couple, at an open-air screening of the film, stealing a hug in the dark. It's like they are pretending to be in the backseat of a taxi, gently romancing each other, concealed yet mobile, away from all prejudice and spite. They are in the safe hands of the heroic taxi driver.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subramanian

Mr. Alwyn Machado, Engineer, ISRO, Bangalore wants to know what answer he should give to the question. "What are you up to?"

" 'What are you up to?' generally means 'What are you scheming, plotting?' It doesn't have a good meaning The answer depends on whether you are up to any mischief or not. 'Up to' has several meanings. A few are given below with illustrations.

It is up to you to give an appropriate answer.

In this sentence, 'up to' means 'responsibility'. 'Up to' also means 'equal to'.

I don't feel up to walking 10 miles.
She is not up to the mark.

It also means 'as far as', 'until'. *I went up to Vijayawada. I couldn't go any further as I fell ill.*

Mr. K.A. Ahmed, Jabalpur, wants to know the meaning of 'macho'.

'Macho' means 'a vigorous, robust man'. A he-man, an 'aggressively virile person' is a macho.

He is a macho and can't be easily beaten.

'Macho' is from Spanish macho, male. The 'a' in 'macho' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'part' and 'dance'; some pronounce it like the 'a' in 'man' and 'pan'. Both are acceptable. 'Ch' in 'cho' is pronounced like the 'ch' in 'chair'. 'O' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'bone', 'boat'.

A.C. Banerjee, Calcutta, wants to know the meaning of the sentence, 'He is a big yawn'.

The word 'yawn' is used in the sentence in the sense of 'a tiresome thing or parson'.

Some people consider the Taj a big yawn.

Mr. V. Rathinam, APSA College, Tirupathur, wants to know which of the following two is correct: (a) He is relieved of his duties; (b) He is relieved from his duties.

'He is relieved of his duties' is correct. You relieve someone of something.

He was relieved of his wardenship.

Dr. (Capt.) M.R. Srinivasan, 33/1, 4 Cross, I Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, wants to know the significance of the word 'period' in the following sentence: 'What the Chinese are saying, said the American businessman in Beijing, is that they don't like the Japanese, period'.

In American English, 'period' means 'full stop'. It is used at the end of a sentence to emphasise the finality of a statement.

'They don't like the Japanese, period' means that they don't like the Japanese and that is that: there needn't be any discussion on it any further.

I am going to marry Ahmed. Period.

She is not willing to come here, period.

'Period' can be preceded by a comma or a full stop.

Published in The Hindu on August 18, 1987

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The story of special bond between a Sarus crane and a farmer Mohammed Arif in U.P. has gone viral. How well do you know such bonds in fiction?

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

This animal is a variant of the leopard and the jaguar. Born in captivity, he is the mentor of an abandoned child in this book written by a now controversial author. What animal and book are we talking about?

QUESTION 2

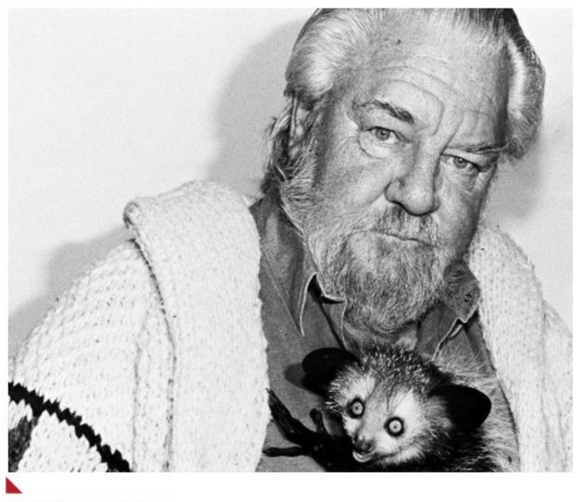
This creature is native to the Arctic region. It is diurnal, has excellent eyesight and a keen sense of hearing. It was presented as a birthday gift to a young boy and remained a close and loyal friend of his until its death in the last book of a series. What was this creature's name in the fantasy series?

QUESTION 3

In this work, the eponymous hero leaves his puppy to go to war. When he returns years later, the puppy, now a full-grown dog, dies as soon as it sees him. This brief reunion was depicted in a painting by Theodoor Van Thulden. What is the name of this dog and the epic in which he is featured?

QUESTION 4

This author wrote a book about a goat which belongs to an old couple. The book is a social commentary of our times. The author of this book was recently longlisted for the International Booker Prize this year for another book. Who is this author?



Visual question:

This man was born in Jamshedpur. He was a British conservationist and a passionate animal lover. He created his own zoo to save species from extinction. Who was he?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Graphene, diamonds, and fullerenes are all _____ of carbon. Fill in the blank with a term. **Ans: Allotrope**

2. Graphene is a two-dimensional sheet of carbon atoms. What is the material called when these sheets are stacked over each other in three dimensions? **Ans: Graphite**

3. Name the Prize that Andre Geim received in 2000 for levitating a frog using its own magnetic field. **Ans: Ig Nobel Prize**

4. In 2004, Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov used micromechanical cleavage to isolate graphene from graphite. Aside from graphite, what material does this technique require to work? **Ans: Cellophane tape**

5. What is the main application of GMR? **Ans: To sense magnetic fields**

6. Germanene is to germanium, and stanene is to _____. Fill in the blank. **Ans: Tin**

Visual: Name this visual pattern named for the French word for 'watered fabric'. **Ans: Moire pattern**

Early Birds: Ashraf Basha | Meena Khanna | V. Koushika | Indra Sharma | Shivram

Word of the day

Narcissism:
an exceptional interest in and admiration for oneself

Synonyms: vanity, self-love, self-absorption

Usage: *She was a very narcissistic woman, not too concerned with the world.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/409v2rc

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈnɑːsɪsɪz(ə)m/

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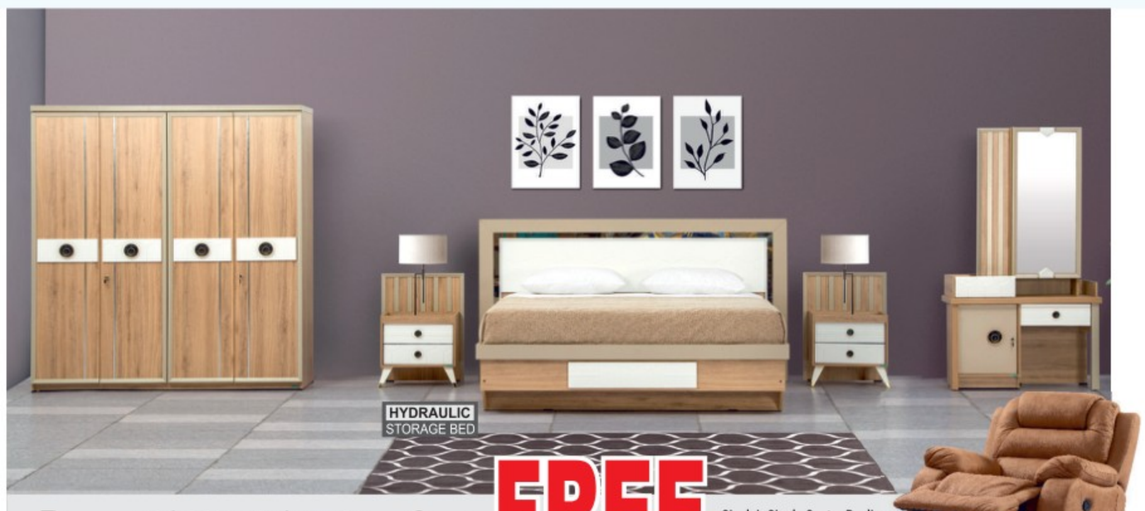
Manila (3 + 1 + 1 Seater) NOW ₹60,000 EMI ₹5,000



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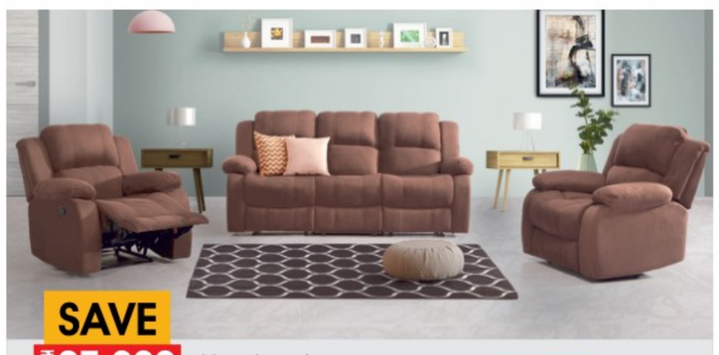
Haily Recliner Sofa (3 + 1R + 1R) NOW ₹67,000 EMI ₹5,583



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Blake Recliner Sofa (3RR + 1R + 1R) (Colour Code Pv06)* NOW ₹90,000 EMI ₹7,500

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Combo Offer

Mercury 2 Piece Bedroom Set (Queen Bed + 3D Wardrobe) NOW ₹27,900 EMI ₹2,325

Combo Offer

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Farmers, pickle fans throng 'appe midi' diversity fair at IIHR

With the variety not easily available in the market, consumers are thrilled at the opportunity to buy as much 'appe midi' as they want at the mela; Dombesara appe and Kallundi Koppa appe among 100 varieties on display

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Appe midi on display at the diversity fair on ICAR-IIHR campus in Bengaluru on Thursday. JAHNAVI T.R.

Such is the uniqueness of the appe midi (tender mango) variety of mango that Bengalureans took a break from their hectic work schedules on a weekday to visit the 'Appe Midi Diversity Fair' on Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (ICAR-IIHR) campus on Thursday, which was the second day of the event. From farmers to pickle lovers to students, hundreds of mango enthusiasts could be seen at the mela.

Dombesara appe, Kallundi Koppa appe, Tumbe beedu appe, and Gorana appe were among over 100 varieties of appe midi showcased at the mela.

Sandhya, a doctor, said, "I am from Sagar (Shivamogga district), and I love appe midi pickle. My friend is a scientist here. He insisted that I visit this exhibition. I have a farm near Tumakuru, and I am planning to cultivate this variety there."

With the variety not easily available in the market, consumers were thrilled with the opportunity to buy as much appe midi as they want.

Kusuma, who was accompanied by her husband, said: "I am a big fan of appe midi pickle, and I make them at home. But, there are not many sellers of appe midi in Bengaluru. That is why we decided to come here and buy some good quality appe midi."

A small nursery was set up to sell saplings of various appe midi varieties. Jeerige variety appe midi was being sold at ₹350 per kg. Sharath, a seller, said: "These have been grown near Hemavathi river, and are of good quality. On some days, the price of one midi can go up to ₹5."

Appe midi pickles were being extensively sold at the mela. Kumar, a seller from Mysuru, said: "During this season, appe midi pickle is in huge demand. Usually, we sell them only at such exhibitions. We have done some good business so far."

Speaking at the inauguration of the mela, University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) Vice-Chancellor S.V. Suresha called for creating awareness about the unique variety. "There is an alarming new trend where people are bringing their native appe midi varieties and selling them with new names at nurseries. In reality, there would be no varieties like that. To avoid such misrepresentation, IIHR should recognise original varieties, educate farmers about them, distribute saplings and teach them the growing methods," he said.

Around 1,500 visitors turned up at the mela on Wednesday, exceeding the expectations of the organisers.

Five custodian farmers were felicitated at the mela for their contribution to the conservation of appe midi mangoes. "I have around 13 acres of land where I grow close to 30 varieties of appe midi. I sourced them from forests. Rather than harvesting fruits, I prepare saplings and run trials before providing them to people who are interested in cultivation," said Ananth Murthy Javuli, a farmer from Shivamogga.

Air India to launch TaxiBot operations at Bengaluru and Delhi airports for A320s

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Air India has signed an agreement with KSU Aviation to launch TaxiBot operations in Delhi and Bengaluru airports for its Airbus A320 family of aircraft.

The strategic partnership is aligned with Air India's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, as the adoption of TaxiBots envisages a saving of approximately 15,000 tonnes in fuel consumption over three years. The TaxiBot is a semi-robotic equipment. Once attached to the aircraft, it acts as an extension of the aircraft's nose-landing gear. It is used to tow aircraft from the airport terminal gate to the taxi-out point, and to the terminal gate after landing, without utilising the aircraft's engines, thus saving jet fuel.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the members of the General Public that our Client Mrs Queeny Stephen, aged 68 years, widow of the late Arumugam presently residing at No.49, Hutchins Road, St. Thomas Town Post, Bengaluru-560 084 has misplaced/lost the originals of the following documents relating to the immovable property more particularly mentioned and described in the Schedule appearing hereunder and in respect of which loss of Original Documents has been duly reported in Pulikeshi Nagar (Fraser Town), Bengaluru-560005 as per Lost Report No.0506583/2023 on its file as the aforesaid loss occurred in its territorial jurisdiction.

1) Original Agreement of Sale dated 11/10/1988 executed of Narayana Reddy son of Ramaiah Reddy, resident of Chelkere, Bangalore South Taluk in favour of Mrs Queeny Stephen.

2) Original deed of Sale dated 26/10/1988 executed by G.Krishnappa and G.Gopal both sons of late Gurappa and residents of Hennur Village, Bangalore North Taluk, registered a document Nos.4982/1988-89 in Book I, Volume 4178, Pages 88-91 in the Office of the First Grade Sub Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

Any person/s coming into possession of the aforesaid documents may kindly deliver the same to the undersigned who will accept the same against Issue of an accountable receipt for and on behalf of the aforesaid Mrs Queeny Stephen.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Site No.13 (Thirteen) in the converted land bearing survey No. 41/2(forty one sub two) of Hennur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 45 (Forty five) ft. North to South 30(Thirty) ft. and bounded on the East By: Road, West By : Site No.32, North By : Road, South By : Site No.12.

Arjun P Rego,
B.A.LL.B, MBL, LLM (London)
Advocate
For **Messrs Rego & Rego**
N-509, Manipal Centre #47/73,
Dickenson Road, Bangalore-560042.
Mob: 98450 04670
14-4-2023
Bangalore

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender Call Notice E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 01/2023-24 Memo No - Dt.

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as detailed in the table below:

1.	Nature of Work	: Road Work
2.	No of Work	: 1 No
3.	Tender Cost	: Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4.	Class of Contractor	: A Class
5.	Available of Bid document in the Website	: From 10.00 AM of Dt.19.04.2023 up to 05.00 PM of Dt.29.04.2023 up to 5.00 PM
6.	Date of opening of Bid	: Dt 01.05.2023 at 11.30 AM

7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website:**https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
B-55 : OIPR-34127/11/0003/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BOUDH (R&B) DIVISION, BOUDH
E-mail - eeboudhrb@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Letter No. 2031 **"e" procurement Notice** dtd. 10.04.2023

Bid Identification No. SE (R&B) - BDH 01/2023-24

1)	Name of the work	: 02 (Two) Nos. of Civil work (Double cover)
2)	Estimated Cost	: 115.35 lakhs and 146.82 lakhs
3)	Period of Completion	: 5 (Five) Calendar months.
4)	Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal	: From 17.04.2023, 10.00 AM to 28.04.2023 5.00 PM
5)	Last date/time for seeking of Tender Clarification	: 28.04.2023 up to 1.00 P.M
6)	Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	: up to 5.00 P.M. of dated 28.04.2023
7)	Date & time of opening of tender/Bid	: 29.04.2023 at 11.30 A.M
8)	Name and address of the O.I.T.	: Superintending Engineer, Boudh (R&B) Division, Boudh

Further details corrigendum (s) if any issued can be seen from the website http://tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd/- 10.04.2023
Superintending Engineer, Boudh (R&B) Division, Boudh
B-62 OIPR-34134/11/0001/2324

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Video of youth from Bihar alleging discrimination goes viral on social media

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An old video of a youth from Bihar accusing a customer of discrimination over language, at an eatery in Bengaluru where he was employed, went viral on social media, prompting the jurisdictional Rajajinagar police to take cognisance and initiate a probe.

The youth, Ritesh from Muzaffarpur, claimed that he was being harassed because he spoke in Hindi while attending to customers. He recorded the video after allegedly being abused by customers. The police said that the alleged incident took place a week ago, near Chord Road. Ritesh was working as an assistant in a small-time eatery. He has returned to his home town.

"Discrimination on the grounds of language, religion or gender is strictly not tolerated," the police tweeted.

The alleged abuse followed a dispute over payment in cash at the eatery. According to the police, three customers paid in cash, but one of the notes was torn. When they were questioned about the note, an argument ensued during which the trio abused Ritesh.

Three-day music festival to be held from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ramakrishna Mission, to commemorate its 125th anniversary, will hold a three-day music festival titled Sri Ramakrishna Sangeeta Saurabha from Friday.

The details of the programme are as follows: **April 14:** Hindustani classical Bansuri recital by Ravishankar Mishra, accompanied by Gurumurti Vaidya on tabla from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Carnatic classical vocal by Sampagodu S. Vighnaraja, accompanied by Dr. Jyotsna Srikanth on violin, N.G. Ravi on mridanga and B. Rajashekar on morsing from 7.15 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. **April 15:** Carnatic classical violin by Ramasundar from Chennai, accompanied by D. Srinivasa Rao on Mridangam and tabla; Prem Kumar on morsing from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Hindustani classical vocal by Siddharth Belmannu, accompanied by Yogeesh Bhat on Tabla and Garuva Gadiyar on Harmonium from 7.15 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. **April 16:** Hindustani classical vocal by Swami Kripakaranandaji from Itanagar. He will be accompanied by Jagadeesh Kurukoti on Tabla and Vyasamurti Katti on Harmonium. The event will be held at Swami Vivekananda Sabhangana, Ramakrishna Mutt premises, Bull Temple Road, Basavanagudi.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, APR. 14		
RISE	06:08	SET 18:32
RISE	01:30	SET 13:08
SATURDAY, APR. 15		
RISE	06:07	SET 18:32
RISE	02:23	SET 14:09
SUNDAY, APR. 16		
RISE	06:07	SET 18:32
RISE	03:13	SET 15:09

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	24
Mysuru	36	24
Bengaluru	35	21

Bengaluru Today
34ºC The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35ºC A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

S. MAHADEVAN
13-09-1934 08-04-2023
Chartered Accountant, Alleppey, attained Shivalokaprapthi on 8th April 2023 in Bangalore
Deeply mourned by Family
Contact: 9880480893

K. JAGANNATHAN (72)
CEG-72 Batch. Ex-TI Cycles, UL

Our beloved father passed away on 13-04-2023 after a brief illness. Last rites will be performed at 12 pm on 14-04-2023 at his Kottur Gardens residence.

Leaving behind WIFE,
Two Sons and Three Grandchildren.
Mrs. J. Pasupathi - wife
J.K. Shankar - 9884409697
J. Sethu - 9444509964

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAFIQ Pasha, S/o Abdul Azeez, R/o No. 25, Ground Floor, 4th Cross, 8th Main, Citizen Co-operative Society, Byrasandra 1st Block, East Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011 have changed my name from Rafiq Pasha to Rafeeq Pasha vide affidavit dated 12-04-2023 before Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

I, SHADRACH Reddy, S/o Nagarajan, R/o No.2A, Anugraha, 3rd Floor, E-Cross, Brindavan Layout, LBS Nagar, HAL Post, Bengaluru-560017 have changed my name from Shadrach Reddy to Shadrach N Reddy vide affidavit dt: 23-03-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL PRESIDED BY HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M. GOVINDARAJ (RETD) FORMER JUDGE, MADRAS HIGH COURT. SOLE-ARBITRATOR IN THE MATTER OF ARBITRATION & CONCILIATION ACT, 1996 AND IN THE MATTER OF DISPUTES BETWEEN

Fuso Glass India Pvt. Ltd.
Having Registered Office at: Fuso House 91, Poonamallee High Road, 4th Floor, Egmore, Chennai - 600084
Rep by its Authorized Signatory, Mr. P. Sandeep ...Claimant
-Vs-
1. Saket Metal Technocraft Dharwad, A Partnership firm Having address at: Plot No. 158-D, Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad, Karnataka - 580008 ...Respondent - 1
2. Mr. Saket Arora Partner of Saket Metal Technocraft Dharwad Having address at Plot No. 158-D, Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad, Karnataka-580008..Respondent-2
3. Mr. Sumit Arora Partner of Saket Metal Technocraft Dharwad Having address at Plot No. 158-D, Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad, Karnataka-580008..Respondent-3

In the above matter the Hon'ble Arbitral Tribunal, Chennai has passed the order of Paper Publication for Respondents on 05.04.2023 and returnable by 19.04.2023. Further hearing for Your's presence on 19.04.2023. Hence be present on the above-said date either personally or through your counsel, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence.

A.DAMODARAN, Advocate
Counsel for Claimant

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, A. MARY Manjula legally spouse of Service No.14395659A, Rank :NK(GNR), Name: Sagaya Prabhu Kumar.J, R/o #55, 3rd Cross, DNS Layout, Sacred Hearts Road, Thambbuchatti Palya, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036 have changed my name from Mary Manjula to A Mary Manjula vide affidavit dt: 12-04-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, EUPHRISIA Glad S is legal daughter of Service No. 14395659A, Rank:NK(GNR), Name: Sagaya Prabhu Kumar J, R/o #55, 3rd Cross, DNS Layout, Sacred Hearts Road, Thambbuchatti Palya, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036 have changed my name from Euphrisia Glad to Euphrisia Glad S vide affidavit dt: 12-04-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 74th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-75) O.S. NO. 25159/2022

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Promod G., Aged about 46 Years, S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa
...PLAINTIFF

And
Mr. RAVI KIRAN
S/o. Mr. Hagalwaoi Surappa Kanth, Aged About 32 Years No.20, 12th Main Raod, Vidyaganapathi Road, Opp. Kaveri Factory, JC Nagar Bengaluru- 560086
...DEFENDANT

Summons to Defendant

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 8,50,497.21/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Seven and paisa Twenty One Only)** apart from future interest of 13.25% p.a., in **O.S. NO. 25159/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-75,** Before Addl., City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 15th day of June, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte

Given under my hand and seal of the court this the 10th day of April, 2023.

By the order of the Court,
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 005

FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 001

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAMEER Khan Sardar, Residing at #22/1, 7th Cross, New Gurappanapalya, Bengaluru-560029, have changed the name of my minor Daughter from Sameer Zainab Sumaiya to Zainab Sumaiya vide affidavit dated: 12/04/2023 sworn before Notary N.Kanchivaradaraju, Bengaluru.

I, MADHURI Hema Manjunath, R/o No. 265, 27th Cross, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070 have changed my name from Madhuri Hema Manjunath to Madhuri Tejus Lagisetty vide affidavit dated 13-04-2023 before Notary L. Shankaranarayana, Bengaluru.

I, VARSHINI, D/o. Sendil Nathan.B, r/at No.44, Venkateshappa Layout, 2nd Cross, Seethamma Road, Kammanahalli, Bengaluru-560084, have changed my name as Varshini.S vide affidavit dtd 12.04.2023 sworn before Notary B.Seshagiri, Bluru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 3rd ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT TUMAKURU ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 237/2022

BETWEEN :
ICICI BANK LTD.
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office "Landmark," Race Course Circle, Vadodara-390007. And having its Branch Office at ICICI Bank Ltd., ICICI RAPG Division, Classic Arcade, 1st Floor, KS Rao Road, Beside City Centre, Tumkur and represented POA holder and Manager
Mr. Rohith Ali. M,
S/o Ishrath Ali. M,
age : 24 years ...PLAINTIFF
AND :
Ms. Poornima K.K.
...DEFENDANT

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication

To,
Defendant :
Ms. Poornima K. K.
Aged about 33 years.
Daughter of Krishnappa
Residing at Kolala,
Daddeghatta Hobli,
Near Ramdev Temple,
Kodagihalli Post,
Turuvekere, Tumkur
District- 572227

Whereas the plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs. 5,76,000/- (Ruppes Five Lakhs Seventy Six Thousand only) together with interest at the rate 10.25% P.A. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on the 25th day of May, 2022 at 11:00 AM to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court this 29th day of March, 2023.

By the order of the court,
Siresthedhar, Prl Senior City Civil Judge Court Tumakuru

Advocates for plaintiff :
S.M. Anees Ahamed,
B.M. Kushalappa,
T.N. Ajay Advocate,
No. 4, (10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560001

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMMED Haseeb, S/o Rafeeq Pasha, R/o No.25, Ground Floor, 4th Cross, 8th Main, Citizen Co-0perativr Society, Byrasandra 1st Block, East Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011 have changed my name from Mohammed Haseeb to Mohammad Haseeb Owaiz vide affidavit dated 12-04-2023 before Notary K. V. Mani, Bengaluru.

REAL ESTATE

BSNL HOUSING Society premium Residential & Commercial Sites near Blore Intl Airport on 6 Lane NH-207 Rs.1100/- Sft, Open for general public. Call: 9071534000.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

I, SIETI I G Banu alias Sieti Banu Immanuel S/O, C Immanuel Manoharan R/O Shalom, Nehru Nagar, Budikote Road, Hunasanahalli, Beside SIBS, Anandagiri, Bangarapet, Kolar District Karnataka 563114 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that both the names are indicating and referring myself as a same and one identical person, not to different person whatsoever and shall hereafter be Known As Sieti Banu Immanuel vide Affidavit Number {IN-KA34551762693284V} dated {05/04/2023} before Notary Ramegowda, Bangarapet

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-53) O.S. NO. 6874/2022 Hg. 13/06/2023

Between :
M/S ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and Zonal office at 4/10, Mytree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative
Mr. Rohith Ali M ...Plaintiff
And :
Mr. H. Bhupathi ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. H. Bhupathi
S/o. Hanumanthappa,
Aged About 32 Years,
R/at. No. 36, 1st Main Road, Domlur, Layout, Post office Back Side, Airport Road, Bengaluru- 560071

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 3,70,880.94/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-53), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 13/06/2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 29th day of March, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru -01

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE OF COIMBATORE S.O.P.No. 266 / 2022

1. Mrs. R. Mani
2. K. Sakthivel ... Petitioners
- vs -
G. Mogan, No. G-97, Ural Post, Bangalore - 560 008.
... Respondent

NOTICE

The petitioners have filed the above application for the issuance of the Succession Certificate as legal heirs for the deposits in the name of the deceased Aruljothi. The above case is posted on 28-04-2023 for your appearance at about 10.30 a.m. either in person or with your counsel failing which the matter will be decided in your absence.

P. SUBRAMANI, B.Com., B.L.,
USHA NANDINI, B.Sc., LL.B.,
Advocates, Coimbatore - 18.

IN THE COURT OF THE VII ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-19) O.S. NO. 6911/2021 Hg. 27/06/2023

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and Branch office at 4/10, Mytree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068. through its Authorised representative
Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And :
Mrs. Shamasultana & Another
...Defendants

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
1. Mrs. Shamasultana,
D/o. Mohammed Ibrahim
Aged about 46 years,
2. Mr. Mohammed Ilyas,
Age about 51 years,
Defendants 1 & 2 are
Residing at No. 7, 2nd Cross RBI and Huts Colony, Tankbund area, 8th Main Road, Byrasandra Middle, Bengaluru- 560041

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 4,94,998.01/-** along with interest at the rate of 15% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the VII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-19), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 27/06/2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 1st day of April, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru -01

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 3rd ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT TUMAKURU ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 739/2022

BETWEEN :
ICICI BANK LTD.,
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act 1949 having Registered Office "Landmark," Race Course Circle, Vadodara-390007. And having its Branch Office at ICICI Bank Ltd., ICICI RAPG Division, Classic Arcade, 1st Floor, KS Rao Road, Beside City Centre, Tumkur and represented POA holder and Manager
Mr. Rohith Ali. M.
S/o Ishrath Ali. M.
age: 24 years ...PLAINTIFF
AND :
Mr. Tippeswamy
...DEFENDANT

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication

To,
Defendant :
Mr. Tippeswamy
Aged about 47 year, son of Dhenyanayak Residing at Shrongara sagara, Huliyurdurga Hobli, Near Bus Stop, Halevoor Road, Tumakuru-572123

Whereas the plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs. 7,54,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Fifty Four Thousand only) together with interest at the rate 9.75% P.A. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on the 25th day of May 2023 at 11:00 AM to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court this 29th day of March, 2023

By the order of the court,
Siresthedhar, Prl Senior City Civil Judge Court Tumakuru

Advocates for plaintiff:
S.M. Anees Ahamed,
B.M. Kushalappa,
T.N. Ajay Advocate,
No. 4, (10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560001

TENDERS

CHENNAI FISHING HARBOUR

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TenderNo.T/FHMC1/26/2023/E

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CEO/MS (FHMC)

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INBRIEF

Greenpeace India submits manifesto recommendations

Greenpeace India has submitted 20 recommendations to political parties pertaining to sustainable cities and nutrition diversity in the run-up to the Assembly elections.

The NGO called on political parties to make critical environmental issues, such as urban justice, equitable mobility and safe local foods, the basis of current and future legislature discourses.

Greenpeace India campaigner Amruta S.N. said: "Building more flyovers, roads and elevated corridors means we are encouraging more private vehicles, completely ignoring that the masses travel in buses and non-motorised transport. The more exclusionary we become, the less sustainable and livable our cities are."

Many from BJP and Cong. in touch with me, claims HDK

JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy has said that many leaders from the Congress and the BJP who were denied the ticket by their parties would like to join his party.

In Kalaburagi, he said, "Many MLAs and MLCs from the Congress and the BJP are in touch with me. I cannot disclose their names at present. They are discussing with their followers their future course of action. Many of them are likely to join the JD(S) in Bengaluru shortly."

To a question on KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar's readiness to make All-India Congress Committee president M. Mallikarjun Kharge the Chief Minister of Karnataka if the party is voted to power, Mr. Kumaraswamy said Mr. Shivakumar and his supporters did not offer it when they had the opportunity to make Mr. Kharge the Chief Minister of Karnataka in the past.

221 candidates file papers on day one

Ministers Murugesh Nirani, K. Sudhakar, S.T. Somashekar, C.C. Patil, and V. Sunil Kumar were among those who submitted their nominations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 221 candidates, including a few Ministers, and 24 women candidates, filed nominations for the May 10 Karnataka Assembly elections on Thursday, when the poll process was set in motion. This follows the issuance of the gazette notification for the elections.

BJP Ministers Murugesh Nirani, K. Sudhakar, S.T. Somashekar, C.C. Patil, and V. Sunil Kumar were among those who filed their nomination papers on day one.

According to the Election Commission, 27 Bharatiya Janata Party candidates, 26 of the Congress, 12 of the Janata Dal (S), 10 of the Aam Aadmi Party, and one from the Bahujan Samaj Party filed the papers. There were 100 nominations by unrecognised parties and 45 by Independents.

According to the EC schedule of events, the last date for filing nominations is April 20. The papers will be scrutinised on April 21 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is April 24.

First step: Ministers S.T. Somashekar and K. Sudhakar filing their nominations as BJP candidates for Yeshwantpur and Chickballapur constituencies, respectively, on Thursday.

'Auspicious day'

Dr. Sudhakar is contesting for the third time from Chickballapur. He holds the Health and Medical Education portfolios. He said he filed his papers without the 'B' form on the first day as it was an auspicious day. "I had to visit Tirupati and perform puja to our family deity. Hence, could not collect the 'B' form," he said.

Mr. Somashekar, who is contesting from Yeshwantapur constituency in Bengaluru, submitted his papers at the office of the Returning Officer in Yeshwantpur. Dr. Sudhakar and Mr. Somashekar were among the group of MLAs who shifted loyalty from the Congress to the BJP during the 'Operation Lotus' in 2019.

Mr. Nirani, who is Large and Medium Industries Minister, is contesting from Bilagi in Bagalkot. He has won three times since 2004 and this is his fourth election.

Public Works Minister Mr. Patil, who is the BJP candidate for Nargund, is seeking a fourth term. He is among the 21 aspirants who filed their nominations in three districts of Kittur Karnataka and two districts of Central Karnataka.

For the eighth time

In Gokak, the former Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi filed his nomination papers. This is the eighth time that Mr. Jarkiholi is filing his nomination papers from Gokak. He had won six elections and lost one.

Party-wise break-up

Bharatiya Janata Party	27
Congress	26
Janata Dal (S)	12
Aam Aadmi Party	10
Bahujan Samaj Party	1
Unrecognised parties	100
Independents	45

Wives richer than Ministers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar has declared assets of ₹4.42 crore in an affidavit filed along with his nomination for the May 10 Assembly elections. His wife, Preethi G.A., is way richer than him with total assets of ₹38.79 crore, as per the affidavit.

Total assets (movable and immovable) of his family that includes his wife and three dependent children are worth about ₹44.82 crore, as per the details provided in the affidavit.

Movable assets

Dr. Sudhakar filed his nomination for the Chickballapur Assembly constituency. Movable assets under his name are worth ₹2.79 crore while immovable assets are ₹12.98 lakh, with the total coming to ₹2.92 crore, as per the affidavit.

Liabilities

His liabilities in the form of loans from banks and financial institutions are over ₹1.61 crore while his wife's liabilities in the form of bank loans and financial institutions ₹19.06 crore.

Dr. Sudhakar owns a Lancer and three tractors worth ₹73.5 lakh each, and jewellery worth ₹9.5 lakh, according to the affidavit.

Nirani family

Similarly, Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani's wife, Kamala Nirani, has more assets and liabilities than him. Mr. Nirani's family members have a total of ₹90 crore assets and liabilities of ₹69 crore. Ms. Kamala Nirani has total moveable assets of ₹38 crore and Mr. Nirani has ₹27 crore in moveable assets. They include investments of the Minister and his wife in 10 companies, cooperative societies, including sugar industries and cement factories.

Immoveable assets

The Minister has immoveable assets worth ₹8.6 crore. Ms. Kamala Nirani has immoveable assets valued at ₹23 crore.

The Minister's liabilities are ₹22 crore while his wife's liabilities are valued at ₹47 crore. Most of these are loans from financial institutions.

Interestingly, the Minister often makes a claim that he had started 22 factories in the last 25 years.

Bommai and BSY take up troubleshooting exercise as several rebels quit BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

How the disappointed reacted

- Mudigere MLA M.P. Kumaraswamy sends in his resignation to the party and blames BJP general secretary C.T. Ravi for him missing the ticket
- Haveri MLA Nehru Olekar resigns from party primary membership; accuses the Chief Minister of conspiring to deny him the ticket
- Former Deputy Chief Minister and Laxman Savadi, MLC, says he is already almost out of the BJP
- Former Minister Sogadu Shivanna resigns from the BJP
- Arsikere BJP ticket aspirant and Yediyurappa's close relative N.R. Santosh says he will contest as an Independent

Close on the heels of several disappointed ticket aspirants from the BJP tendering resignation to the party membership, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and party parliamentary board member B.S. Yediyurappa have taken up troubleshooting exercise.

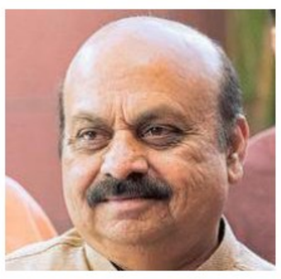
The two leaders told media persons that they would talk to the disappointed ticket aspirants, particularly senior leaders and incumbent MLAs in a bid to assuage their hurt feelings and to retain them in the party fold.

Mr. Yediyurappa said he was confident that barring one or two, all other disappointed ticket aspirants would understand the situation and cooperate with the party. The party has also given the responsibility of handling the situation to prominent district leaders.

Mr. Bommai, who is on a pilgrimage to Kukke Subhramanya, Dharmasthala, and Kollur temples, told reporters that he had already spoken to some of the disappointed aspirants and that he would hold further talks with them. "The party made them MLAs by giving them due respect. The BJP will continue to respect those leaders," he said.

He expressed confidence that it would be possible to quell the rebellion, if any, by convincing all the disappointed ticket aspirants barring a couple of them.

With respect to the former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi, who is said to be weighing the options of joining the Congress, he said Mr. Savadi may have spoken harshly because of the hurt feelings. He would talk to him, he said.



> The BJP made them MLAs by giving them due respect. The party will continue to respect those leaders.
>
> **BASAVARAJ BOMMAI,** Chief Minister

Referring to Minister for Fisheries S. Angara announcing retirement from politics and declaring that he would not campaign for the party, the Chief Minister said, "Mr. Angara is a gentleman-politician."

Disappointments galore

Meanwhile, the disappointed ticket aspirants continued to express their anguish at the party leadership.

In Mudigere, Chikkamgaluru district, incumbent MLA M.P. Kumaraswamy not only sent his resignation letter to the party but also blamed BJP national general secretary C.T. Ravi for him missing out on the party ticket.

In Haveri, MLA Nehru Olekar resigned from the party's primary membership. His supporters continued to stage protests, while the MLA squarely accused the Chief Minister of conspiring to deny the ticket for him unable to tolerate his political growth. He also accused Mr. Bommai of "looting ₹1,500 crore" in Shiggaon Sprinkler Irrigation Scheme. "Farmers have not received even a drop of water and the sprinkler irrigation scheme has completely failed in Shiggaon," he alleged.

Mr. Savadi made it clear that he was already a step outside the BJP and indicated that he would quit the party as well as resign from the MLC post on Friday.

In Tumakuru, the former Minister Sogadu Shivanna sent his resignation letter to the party while in Arsikere, BJP ticket aspirant and Mr. Yediyurappa's close relative N.R. Santhosh staged a protest along with his supporters. He declared that he would contest as an Independent candidate.

In Byatarayanapura of Bengaluru, supporters of disappointed ticket aspirants staged protests to express their anguish and threatened to protest in front of Mr. Yediyurappa's house if the official candidate was not replaced.

4 from 2 families in Belagavi get BJP ticket

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

The BJP has announced candidates for all the 18 Assembly constituencies in Belagavi district, and of these, four names are from two of the most powerful families in the region: the Jarkiholis and the Kattis.

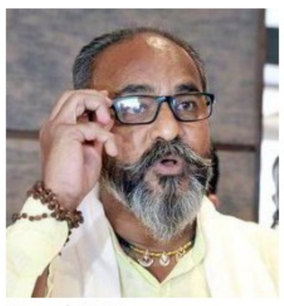
This has led to questions as to whether the senior BJP leadership was forced to concede to the demands of these families that have dominated the political scene in Kittur Karnataka region.

BJP sources said the guiding principle behind the distribution of the ticket is the ability to win the polls. "Gokak and Arabavi, represented by brothers Ramesh Jarkiholi and Balachandra Jarkiholi, are safe seats for the BJP. The two have won the seats multiple times. There was not even an attempt at considering other aspirants in these constituencies," said a senior BJP leader and member of the district core committee.

It seems, however, that many controversies surrounding Mr. Ramesh Jarkiholi, including the 2020 sleaze CD scandal or his alleged involvement in a conspiracy to defeat the official BJP candidate in the Legislative Council elections, do not seem to have reduced his chances of getting the ticket not only for himself or his brother but also for his followers. Mr. Ramesh Jarkiholi has succeeded in getting the ticket for his followers Srimant Patil and Mahesh Kumathalli, even at the cost of losing the support of veteran leader Laxman Savadi.

Ramesh Jarkiholi

Balachandra Jarkiholi



Ramesh Katti

The Katti and Jarkiholi families in the district will have two candidates each

BJP Rajya Sabha member Iranna Kadadi, who is considered the political rival of the Jarkiholi brothers, had opposed this. In the party's State-level parliamentary committee meeting, he had argued for fielding general category candidates from these two seats and asked the party to restrict the Jarkiholi brothers from seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. He also sought a ticket for his cousin Mahantesh Kadadi from Gokak and asked the BJP to field Mr. Balachandra Jarkiholi against his brother and Congress leader Satish Jarkiholi in Yamakanamaradi.

However, this demand was not accepted. Mr. Mahantesh Kadadi has now sought and obtained the Congress ticket against Mr. Ramesh Jarkiholi. Mr. Iranna Kadadi has refused to react to questions about who he will support in Gokak – his relative in the Congress or BJP nominee and political rival Mr. Ramesh Jarkiholi.

Son and brother

With the death of Umesh Katti in September last year, the BJP lost one of its tallest Lingayat leaders in northern Karnataka. The BJP chose his son Nikhil Katti, a management graduate and hospitality entrepreneur, to fight from Hukkeri, the seat vacated by the tragedy. What was surprising was the nomination of his uncle and former MP Ramesh Katti from the Chikkodi-Sadalaga seat held by Congress leader Ganesh Hukkeri. His father, Prakash Hukkeri, held the seat for multiple terms, before moving on to the Legislative Council. BJP leaders from Chikkodi said this was the only way the party could face the Hukkeris, who wield significant clout in and around Chikkodi.

"Our leaders were scouting for a leader who could take on the Hukkeri family in Chikkodi-Sadalaga seat and Mr. Ramesh Katti fit the bill," said a former legislator from Chikkodi.

Under fire

However, this has come under fire from political observers. "BJP claims to be a party with a difference that does not believe in family politics or nepotism. But its actions prove otherwise," said D.S. Chougale, writer and political observer, adding that the party had clearly ended up yielding to two powerful families.

A reluctant 'Bengaluru man' has been fielded against me in Varuna, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said the BJP had fielded a "reluctant person from Bengaluru" – referring to Housing Minister V. Somanna – against him in Varuna constituency.

"He has been forced to contest against me by his party leaders. But, the blessings of the people of Varuna are on me," he maintained. The BJP has nominated Mr. Somanna to contest from Varuna to face Mr. Siddaramaiah, besides from Chamarajanagar. The day also saw Mr. Somanna arriving in the constituency. He sought the blessings of Suttur mutt seer and later met Chamarajanagar MP V. Srinivas Prasad. He will file his nomination papers in Varuna constituency on April 17.

Siddaramaiah
BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Mr. Siddaramaiah on Thursday addressed party workers and supporters in Chamundeshwari Assembly constituency from where Congress candidate Mavinahalli Sidde Gowda has been fielded against incumbent JD(S) MLA G.T. Deve Gowda. Mr. Sidde Gowda, who was until recently in the JD(S), joined the Congress recently after the party decided to field Mr. Deve Gowda in Chamundeshwari, though the MLA had distanced himself from the party for a long time over differences with the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

In his address, Mr. Siddaramaiah told the party workers that the ensuing election would be his last one. "I am fighting my last election from my home constituency. If Varuna is my home constituency (his village Siddaramanahundi is in Varuna segment), Chamundeshwari is the constituency that gave me my political birth. If Mr. Sidde Gowda wins, I deem it like I am the MLA for Chamundeshwari. I will develop the constituency. I'll never forget the Chamundeshwari and its people. I admire them," he said.

INBRIEF

Kerala HC sets aside order to discharge Sriram Venkitaraman

The Kerala High Court on Thursday set aside the Thiruvananthapuram Additional Sessions Court order discharging IAS officer Sriram Venkitaraman from the charges under Sections 304 and 201 of the Indian Penal Code in a case registered in connection with a road accident that claimed the life of journalist K.M. Basheer. The prosecution alleged that Venkitaraman, who was accompanied by his friend Wafa Firoz, was drunk when the accident occurred. The court observed that it was evident that the materials brought out after investigation, if proven, could bring out the guilt of Venkitaraman. In such circumstances, he cannot be discharged for the offences under the sections.

Milma resents entry of Nandini brand into Kerala

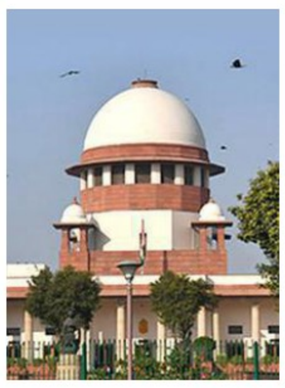
The Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF), known by the brand Milma, has voiced serious concern over the tendency of some State milk marketing federations to aggressively enter markets outside their respective States, holding that this involved a breach of the cooperative spirit based on which the country's dairy sector has been organised for the benefit of millions of dairy farmers.

"The move of Amul to promote its staple products in Karnataka has been met with strong resistance from stakeholders in that State. But the Karnataka Milk Marketing Federation recently opened its outlets in parts of Kerala to sell its Nandini brand of milk and other products. This is a highly unethical practice which defeats the very purpose of India's dairy movement and will harm the interests of the farmers," Milma Chairman K.S. Mani said in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday.

Muslims' quota nixed using false assumptions, says SC

Court records Karnataka government's oral assurance that no appointment will take place till next hearing on April 18; gives the State three days to file counter-affidavit

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court on Thursday orally told the BJP-ruled Karnataka government that its March 27 order scrapping the 4% OBC quota for Muslims and dividing it between Vokkaliga and Lingayat castes in the State is based on "absolutely fallacious assumptions".

"For a very long period, Muslims have been treated as a 'more backward' community. They were sandwiched somewhere between the 'most backward' and 'backward' communities. Suddenly you have taken reservation benefits away from them... I have to speak my mind here, so that you can respond... What strikes me as a student of law is that the order is based on absolutely fallacious assumptions," Justice K.M. Joseph, heading a Bench also comprising Justice B.V. Nagarathna, addressed Karnataka government, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

Justice Nagarathna said the State has excluded Muslims from the backward classes list during the season of admissions in educational institutions. "Are you going to act on this order?" Justice Nagarathna asked the government.

Justice Joseph said the State has to give an assurance that it would not act on the order. The court finally recorded in its judicial order an oral assurance given by the State that "no appointment or admission is going to take place till April 18", which is the next date of hearing. The court gave the State three days to file its counter-affidavit.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, for petitioner L. Ghulam Rasool, said the State had removed Muslims from the backward class list and included them under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category without any empirical data collected or study done to support the move. The order was based on an "interim" report from the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission.

He submitted that the inclusion of Muslim community in the EWS list illegally implied that the community was not socially and educationally backward. "After 50 years, they removed the reservation for Muslims overnight and gave it to somebody else. This was done just two days before the State Assembly elections were announced. You want to favour Vokkaligas and Lingayats, do that. But don't take away reservations given to Muslims... They don't want to displease others, but we are dispensable," Mr. Dave submitted.

> For a very long period, Muslims have been treated as a 'more backward' community. They were sandwiched somewhere between the 'most backward' and 'backward' communities. Suddenly you have taken reservation benefits away from them... I have to speak my mind here, so that you can respond... What strikes me as a student of law is that the order is based on absolutely fallacious assumptions.
>
> **JUSTICE K.M. JOSEPH**

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, also for the petitioner, said reports dating back from 1995 conclude that Muslims have the highest rate of illiteracy in the State and the community sees the highest dropouts from school. "Over 64% of the community earn an annual income of less than ₹6000," he submitted.

Advocate Ravivarma Kumar, for the petitioner side, added that other minority communities, including Christians, Buddhists, Jain, etc., continue in the backward classes list. "All except Muslims," he said.

He said the State had no power to transfer the community from socially backward class category to the EWS category.

Mr. Mehta submitted that the Justice Chinnappa Reddy Commission report had said Muslims were only economically backward and not socially backward.

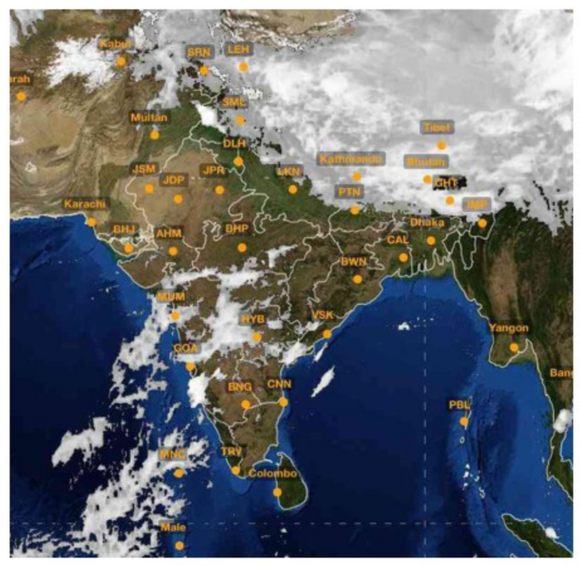
"This is completely wrong. The Commission said the Muslims as a whole were socially and educationally backward. I have the report with me," Mr. Dave interjected vehemently.

Mr. Mehta then said there should not have been religion-based reservation.

To this, Mr. Dave argued that the reservation in favour of the Muslim community was not on religious lines but rather on account of the community being socially and educationally backward.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Hailstorm/thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over central Maharashtra, Marathwada, Vidarbha, Konkan & Goa, north interior Karnataka, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Telangana. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Gangetic West Bengal and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	38.5	23.1	Kozhikode	—	37.0	27.6
Ahmedabad	—	39.3	26.0	Kurnool	—	42.7	26.1
Aizawl	—	36.6	15.1	Lucknow	—	38.7	22.9
Allahabad	—	42.0	22.6	Madurai	—	38.0	24.8
Bengaluru	—	36.4	20.0	Mangaluru	—	34.8	25.6
Bhopal	—	—	24.8	Mumbai	15	34.9	22.2
Bhubaneswar	—	40.8	24.9	Mysuru	—	35.0	23.7
Chandigarh	—	36.3	19.8	New Delhi	—	38.6	18.3
Chennai	—	36.6	24.6	Patna	—	41.5	23.9
Coimbatore	—	38.4	—	Port Blair	—	34.6	25.8
Dehradun	—	35.1	17.6	Puducherry	—	35.0	24.8
Gangtok	—	22.3	14.1	Pune	—	37.9	21.2
Goa	—	34.4	25.8	Raipur	—	41.4	26.0
Guwahati	—	35.4	18.6	Ranchi	—	38.2	23.0
Hubballi	—	39.0	24.0	Shillong	—	27.3	15.5
Hyderabad	—	38.9	26.4	Shimla	—	23.5	13.4
Imphal	—	32.0	16.9	Srinagar	—	27.2	7.2
Jaipur	—	37.5	24.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.4	26.2
Kochi	—	33.6	27.8	Tiruchi	—	38.7	24.0
Kohima	—	26.6	13.7	Vijayawada	—	39.4	24.4
Kolkata	—	39.5	26.6	Visakhapatnam	—	34.8	29.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	..17	.24	...118	...124	
Bengaluru	...7	..15	.19	...109	...119	
Chennai	...2	116	.90	...167	...125	
Delhi	.45	..46	.21	...273	...355	
Hyderabad	.24	2	.97	...111	...137	
Kolkata	.52	.45	.36	...188	...196	
Lucknow	.58	..66	.32	...213	...141	
Mumbai	...9	..—	.39	...202	...153	
Pune	105	143	116	...153	...106	
Visakhapatnam	.16	..46	.63	98	...143	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Katihar, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 295 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Karauli, Rajasthan recorded a healthy AQI score of 39

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Datta to contest from Kadur on JD(S) ticket

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

The former legislator Y.S.V. Datta, who was denied the Congress ticket, will be filing the nomination papers as the JD(S) candidate from Kadur constituency on April 18.

The former Minister and senior JD(S) leader H.D. Revanna said party national president H.D. Deve Gowda would accompany Mr. Datta while filing the nomination papers.

Mr. Revanna made this announcement after welcoming Mr. Datta back to the JD(S) fold at the latter's residence at Yagati village in Kadur taluk on Thursday. Hassan Lok Sabha member Prajwal Revanna was also present on the occasion.

Kadur is part of the Hassan Lok Sabha constituency. Mr. Revanna and Mr. Prajwal Revanna were keen on bringing Mr. Datta back to the party fold after the Congress denied him the ticket. With only a year until the Lok Sabha elections, the father and son wanted Mr. Datta, a popular face in Kadur, to rejoin the party.

Mr. Datta, who had been with the JD(S) for a long time, met Mr. Deve Gowda in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, had openly opposed Mr. Datta's return to the JD(S). However, he left it to Mr. Revanna's discretion, it is said.

Interestingly, Mr. Revanna and Mr. Prajwal Revanna had declared C.M. Dhananjay as the party candidate for Kadur earlier. He is said to have been convinced.

On April 10, Mr. Datta held a meeting with his supporters in Kadur and announced that he would contest as an Independent. Many people had voluntarily contributed funds for his campaign.

HDK reacts

Reacting to the development in Kalaburagi, Mr. Kumaraswamy said, "Mr. Datta coming back to the JD(S) is closely concerned with the Hassan Lok Sabha constituency. He (Mr. Datta) has held discussions with Mr. Revanna and Mr. Prjwal Revanna. He also spoke with Mr. Deve Gowda yesterday (Wednesday). He has not met me. Nor is he in touch with me. He had never been close to me in the party circle."

Ambedkar statue to be unveiled today

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The stage is set for the inauguration of 125-ft statue of B.R. Ambedkar on Friday, coinciding with his birth anniversary. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will unveil the statue in the presence of Dr. Ambedkar's grandson, Prakash Ambedkar, who arrived here on Thursday to participate in the event as special guest. The statue has been built on a 50-ft high pedestal with ground floor measuring 172 ft and terrace of 74 ft.

Deputy Commissioner & District Election Office, Dharwad-580001
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 0836–2233840, 2233880, (ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್) 0836–2747102 e-mail : deo.dharwad@gmail.com

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಕಸಾಚು/ಪಹಿ–01 /2023 — ದಿನಾಂಕ 13–04–2023

Karnataka General Assembly Election - 2023
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the below mentioned Expenditure Observer, have arrived in Dharwad District. The Place of stay, Meeting Hours and Contact Information is given below

Sl. No	No & Name of Assembly Constituency	Name of Observer	Contacts	Place of Stay	Public Meeting Time
1	169-Navalgund 70-Kundgol	**Shri Mohan .B. IRS(C& CE)**	0836-2003110 9141010426 E-Mail: 6970.eo2023@gmail.com	New Circuit House Hubballi NVVIP Room No.6	10-00AM To 11-00AM At New Circuit House Hubballi NVVIP Room No.6
2	71-Dharwad	**Shri. Nimba Ram IRS (C& CE)**	0836-2009064 9141010427 E-Mail: 71.eo2023@gmail.com	New Circuit House Dharwad New Building VVIP Room No.1, Shalmala	10-00AM To 11-00AM New Circuit House Dharwad VVIP Room No.1 Shalmala
3	72-Hubli-Dharwad (East)	**Shri Mahesh Parwani IRS**	0836-2003114 9141010428 E-Mail: 72.eo2023@gmail.com	Circuit House Hubli (NVVIP Room No7)	10-00AM To 11-00AM Circuit House Hubli NVVIP Room No7
4	73-Hubli-Dharwad (Central)	**Smt. Shruti Singhal IRAS**	0836-2003115 9141010429 E-Mail: 73.eo2023@gmail.com	New Circuit House Hubballi NVVIP Room No.1	10-30AM To 11-30AM New Circuit House Hubballi NVVIP Room No.1
5	74-Hubli-Dharwad (West)	**Shri Vinod Pawar IRS**	0836-2009065 9141010430 E-Mail: 74.eo2023@gmail.com	New Circuit House Dharwad New Building VVIP Room No.2, Bheema	10-00AM To 11-00AM New Circuit House Dharwad VVIP Room No.2, Bheema
6	75-Kalaghatagi	**Shri Rupak Kumar IRS(C& CE)**	0836-2009066 9141010431 E-Mail: 75.eo2023@gmail.com	New Circuit House Dharwad New Building VVIP Room No.4, Krishna	10-30AM To 11-30AM New Circuit House Dharwad VVIP Room No.4, Krishna

Sd/- District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner, Dharwad District, Dharwad

DIPR/DWD/01/2023-24/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

APPOINTMENT

INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University, Government of India)
(Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008)
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

Advt. No. IMU-HQ/R/T/2023/01 — Date: 14.04.2023

VACANCY

MISSION RECRUITMENT

Recruitment for Faculty Positions (Direct Recruitment)
Applications are invited from prospective and eligible candidates for the following posts:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Discipline	No. of Posts	Category	Horizontal Reservation	Academic Pay Level
1	Associate Professor	Marine Engineering – 7 Nautical Science– 7	14	SC – 2, ST – 1 OBC-NCL – 3 UR – 7, EWS – 1	Blindness & Low Vision*	Pay Matrix Level–13A (131400-217100)
2	Assistant Professor	Marine Engineering – 6 Nautical Science– 6	12	SC – 2 OBC-NCL – 3 UR – 5, EWS – 2		Pay Matrix Level-10 (57700-182400)

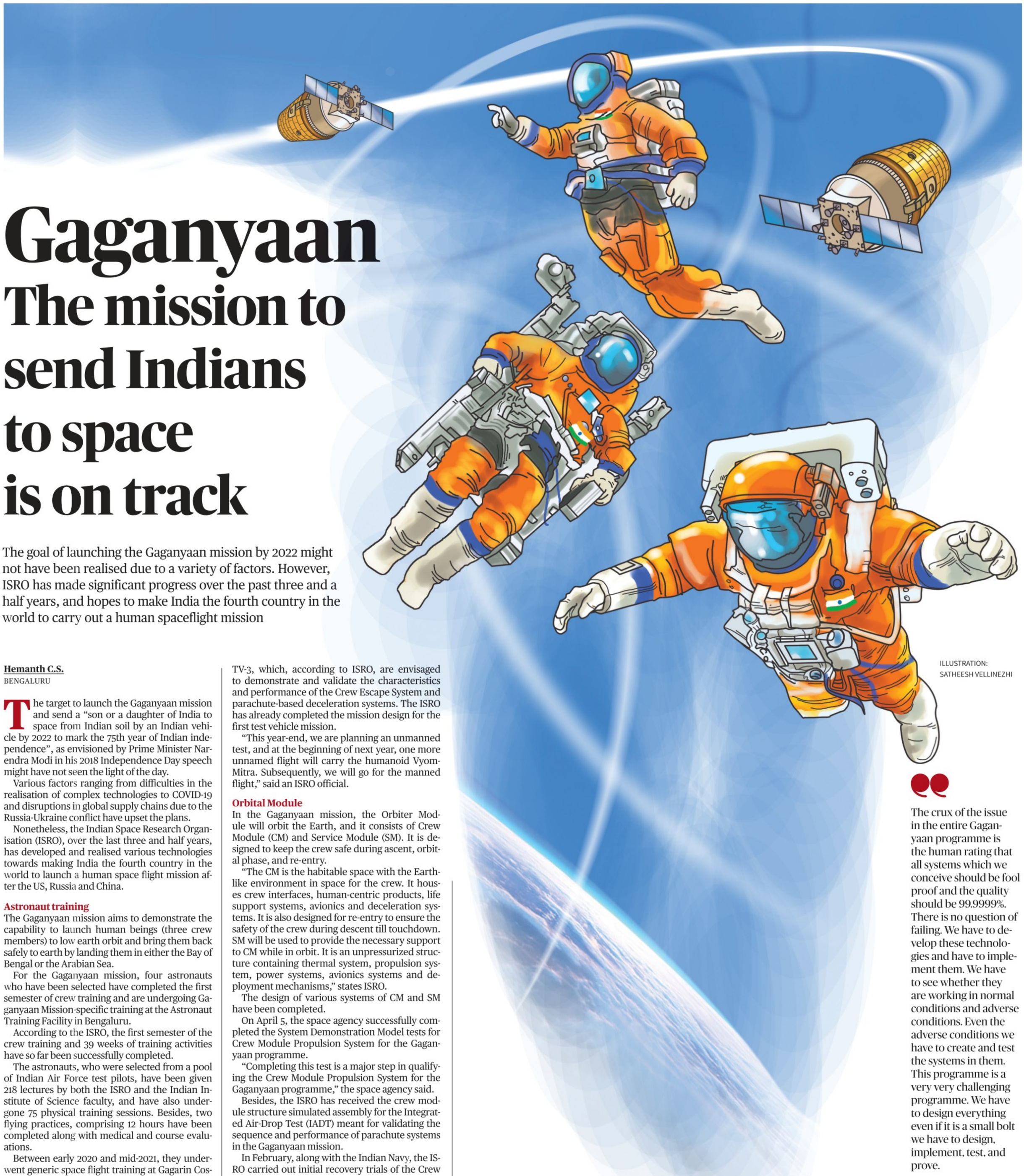
- **Out of 26 posts, one post is reserved for Blindness and Low Vision.*
- *For further details regarding eligibility criteria, age, educational qualifications, experience, remuneration & benefits # etc., please visit* ***www.imu.edu.in***

DESIRED AREA OF EXPERTISE
- *Development of Micro Credit Courses*
- *Laboratory Development*
- *Research development and guidance*
- *Academia-industry interaction and R&D*
- *Entrepreneurship*

REMUNERATION & BENEFITS #
- ***Associate Professor***
  INR 28 Lakhs per year
- ***Assistant Professor***
  INR 13 Lakhs per year
- ***Cumulative Professional Development Allowance***
  INR 1 lakh per year

Important dates:
Opening date for submission of online application: 14.04.2023
Closing date for submission of online application: 04.05.2023
Last date for submission of hardcopy of the application: 09.05.2023

Interested Indian nationals are requested to apply through online link available at www.imu.edu.in



Gaganyaan

The mission to send Indians to space is on track

The goal of launching the Gaganyaan mission by 2022 might not have been realised due to a variety of factors. However, ISRO has made significant progress over the past three and a half years, and hopes to make India the fourth country in the world to carry out a human spaceflight mission

ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The target to launch the Gaganyaan mission and send a "son or a daughter of India to space from Indian soil by an Indian vehicle by 2022 to mark the 75th year of Indian independence", as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 2018 Independence Day speech might have not seen the light of the day.

Various factors ranging from difficulties in the realisation of complex technologies to COVID-19 and disruptions in global supply chains due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict have upset the plans.

Nonetheless, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), over the last three and half years, has developed and realised various technologies towards making India the fourth country in the world to launch a human space flight mission after the US, Russia and China.

Astronaut training

The Gaganyaan mission aims to demonstrate the capability to launch human beings (three crew members) to low earth orbit and bring them back safely to earth by landing them in either the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea.

For the Gaganyaan mission, four astronauts who have been selected have completed the first semester of crew training and are undergoing Gaganyaan Mission-specific training at the Astronaut Training Facility in Bengaluru.

According to the ISRO, the first semester of the crew training and 39 weeks of training activities have so far been successfully completed.

The astronauts, who were selected from a pool of Indian Air Force test pilots, have been given 218 lectures by both the ISRO and the Indian Institute of Science faculty, and have also undergone 75 physical training sessions. Besides, two flying practices, comprising 12 hours have been completed along with medical and course evaluations.

Between early 2020 and mid-2021, they underwent generic space flight training at Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre in Russia.

Launch vehicle

The Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) is the launch vehicle for the Gaganyaan mission. According to the ISRO, all systems in the LVM3 launch vehicle are reconfigured to meet human rating requirements and named Human Rated LVM3 (HLVM3).

"HLVM3 consists of Crew Escape System (CES) powered by a set of quick acting, high burn rate solid motors which ensures that Crew Module along with the crew is taken to a safe distance in case of any emergency either at launch pad or during ascent phase," states the space agency on the rocket chosen for the mission.

According to the Department of Space annual report 2022-2023, the launch vehicle structures have been redesigned to meet the required human rating factor. Solid motor segments required for the static test were realised, and successful static testing of the HS200 motor was completed.

On April 6, a major milestone was completed as the final long-duration hot test of the human-rated L110-G Vikas Engine was successfully accomplished.

"The successful completion of this test marks a major milestone in the human space flight programme, Gaganyaan, of ISRO. With this test, all the planned qualification tests of the engine are completed successfully," the ISRO said.

Prior to the first crewed flight, three test vehicles (TV) flights have been planned TV-1, TV-2 and TV-3, which, according to ISRO, are envisaged to demonstrate and validate the characteristics and performance of the Crew Escape System and parachute-based deceleration systems. The ISRO has already completed the mission design for the first test vehicle mission.

"This year-end, we are planning an unmanned test, and at the beginning of next year, one more unnamed flight will carry the humanoid Vyom-Mitra. Subsequently, we will go for the manned flight," said an ISRO official.

Orbital Module

In the Gaganyaan mission, the Orbiter Module will orbit the Earth, and it consists of Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM). It is designed to keep the crew safe during ascent, orbital phase, and re-entry.

"The CM is the habitable space with the Earth-like environment in space for the crew. It houses crew interfaces, human-centric products, life support systems, avionics and deceleration systems. It is also designed for re-entry to ensure the safety of the crew during descent till touchdown. SM will be used to provide the necessary support to CM while in orbit. It is an unpressurized structure containing thermal system, propulsion system, power systems, avionics systems and deployment mechanisms," states ISRO.

The design of various systems of CM and SM have been completed.

On April 5, the space agency successfully completed the System Demonstration Model tests for Crew Module Propulsion System for the Gaganyaan programme.

"Completing this test is a major step in qualifying the Crew Module Propulsion System for the Gaganyaan programme," the space agency said.

Besides, the ISRO has received the crew module structure simulated assembly for the Integrated Air-Drop Test (IADT) meant for validating the sequence and performance of parachute systems in the Gaganyaan mission.

In February, along with the Indian Navy, the ISRO carried out initial recovery trials of the Crew Module. The trials were part of the preparation for crew module recovery operations for the Gaganyaan mission that will be carried out in Indian waters.

Ground stations and tracking

The Gaganyaan mission also requires the support of ground stations from around the world for telemetry, tracking and command operations.

The Department of Space annual report 2022-2023 said that a detailed Mission Requirements Document describing the overall requirements of Gaganyaan regarding Direct-to-Ground communications support from European Space Agency ground stations has been finalised.

"Technical Implementation Plan is in progress. The requirement for Ship Borne Terminals for the ascent phase and orbit circularisation has been firmed up. A requirement note on Ship-Borne Terminal and Transportable Terminal requirements for the Gaganyaan mission comprising of Transportable LEA deck with CES avionics Terminals in Ships, Cocos island and Helical Antennas and associated communication equipment, including VSAT terminals etc., are generated," states the report.

It said that an implementation arrangement between ISRO and the Australian Space Agency has been signed by both parties for establishing and operating the Transportable Terminal at Cocos Island.

> The crux of the issue in the entire Gaganyaan programme is the human rating that all systems which we conceive should be fool proof and the quality should be 99.9999%. There is no question of failing. We have to develop these technologies and have to implement them. We have to see whether they are working in normal conditions and adverse conditions. Even the adverse conditions we have to create and test the systems in them. This programme is a very very challenging programme. We have to design everything even if it is a small bolt we have to design, implement, test, and prove.
>
> **AN ISRO OFFICIAL**

Trajectory of Gaganyaan

Project officially announced **August 15, 2018**

First unmanned test: **End of 2023**

Second flight carrying humanoid VyomMitra: **Early 2024**

Manned flight: **2025** (Targeted)

Mission cost
₹ 10,000 crore

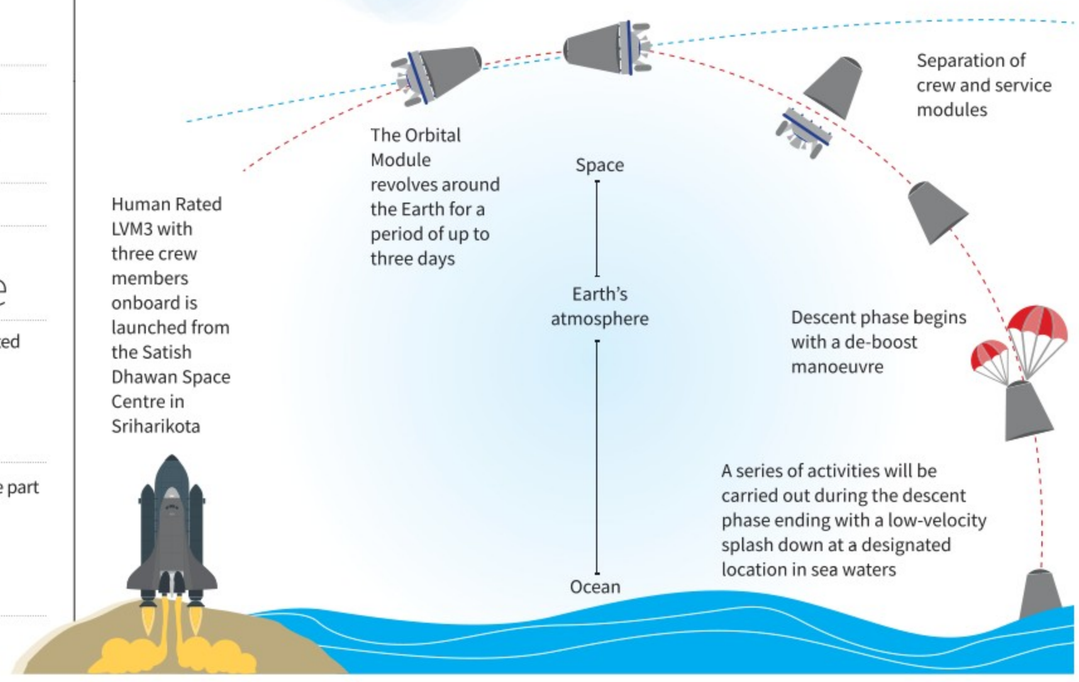
Total number of astronauts selected for mission: **Four**

Number of astronauts who will be part of the manned flight: **Three**

Mission duration: **Three days**

The Gaganyaan Mission

Text : Department of Space Annual Report 2022-2023
GRAPHICS: SHARATH RAM



M BG-BGE

The feast after the fast

Bengaluru's famous Frazer Town iftar food trail comes alive during Ramzan

Praveen Sudevan
praveen.s@thehindu.co.in

The exterior of Fraser Town's 121-year-old Albert Bakery belies its iconic status. Those who look for it after learning about its popularity might not readily find it. The narrow two-storey building is easy to miss on Mosque Road, named after Haji Sir Ismail Sait mosque. The minimal and modest branding – Albert Bakery (in all caps) written with white paint on a horizontal strip of maroon concrete – is another reason for its hiding in plain sight.

To realise its reputation, you need to see its interior. When we enter, at about quarter to five on a Monday evening, about 20 customers jostle for space to buy the Bakery's offerings – popular among them: Bheja Puff (which has a mushy mutton brain stuffing), Khoya Naan (a flatbread packed with condensed milk), and the quintessential Ramzan savoury, Haleem (a thick stew typically made of wheat, lentils, and meat). By six, most of these items get sold out.

Albert Bakery was our starting point for Mosque Road's iftar food trail, which has become a thing in Bengaluru during the Muslims' holy month of Ramzan. It is hard to tell who pioneered the Iftar food stall at Mosque Road, which, until the 1980s, was a quiet street with a handful of commercial establishments.

Nuggets of history

"About 20 years ago, someone had the idea of putting up food stalls in front of the [Haji Sir Ismail Sait] mosque for Ramzan. These stalls used to dole out Iftar goodies. The idea clicked. So, in the subsequent years, many people, including restaurants, started setting up these stalls. And people come from as far as Whitefield to indulge in these delicacies," says Mansoor Ali, one of the co-founders of Bengaluru By Foot, a group exploring the city's cultural heritage.

Mansoor regularly takes people on walks, feeding them nuggets of history and trivia. And, in the case of his Iftar walk, he gives them literal food – the best ones from the best places, according to him. Born and raised in Bengaluru, he knows the right places for a specific iftar dish and its cultural backdrop.

"About 95% of my walkers are non-Muslims. And most of them are people from outside Bangalore. Some locals, who haven't been to this part of the town or don't know much about the festival, also join to experience this Ramzan mela," he says.

Despite being a Bangalorean, Madhurika, a Vedic architect (dealing with *vastu shastra*), has not experienced Frazer Town's Iftar food mela. So, this year, she decided to sign up for Mansoor's Iftar walk.

"If you come by yourself, you may feel overwhelmed by all the colourful food here. But if you have a guide, it's much better because you can learn about the food's origin and recipe. Also, you get to know the stories associated with the food. So, it's really cool to combine all of that into one experience," she says.

A melting pot

As the sun begins its descent, the food stalls lining either side of Mosque Road enliven the atmosphere with delicacies of different colours, smells, textures, and tastes.

Even the sounds that some foods make – like the crackling hiss of meat getting fried and the splash of colourful drinks getting poured onto glasses – attract our attention. It is an all-out assault on all the senses.

One of the latest additions to Mosque Road is Noorie's Multicuisine Kitchen. Run by Noorie and her husband Imran Sait, it offers unique Hyderabadi savouries like Shikamuri Kebab and Mutton Kofta, apart from the usual dishes like Haleem.

After Noorie's, we head to Savoury Family Restaurant's Ramzan stall to taste some Harissa (a blander version of Haleem), believed to have Armenian origins.

After packing some Nalli Nihari (slow-cooked stew with pieces of mutton shank), a Mughlai dish, we head to Karama Restaurant for a refreshing drink of Mohabbat Ka Sharbat, an old Delhi speciality made of milk, watermelon chunks, sugar and Rooh Afza.

If you are wondering about the name of the drink, it has an apocryphal story. Nawab Qureshi moved from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi when a girl broke his heart. He still had a lot of love for her. So, he decided to share this love with the world through a sharbat.

On the way to Karama, we spot Pathar Ka Gosht (a Hyderabadi dish where the meat is cooked on a granite slab), kebabs made of chicken, mutton and beef, sea-food savouries popular in Kerala, and even camel meat.

According to Mansoor, there were limited options in the initial years of the iftar food stalls at Mosque Road. As the number of stalls grew, delicacies from different cuisines of Muslim communities across the country reached Frazer Town.

He tells us this as we sip a little-too-sweet cup of Sulaimani Chai, a popular milkless tea in Kerala, from Taj Tea House. Dismissing our complaint of the excess sugar, he jokes, "*Arey*, so what? It's Ramzan, *yaar*. Let's be sweeter than usual."

Ramzan delights Food stalls selling iftar savouries and desserts at Mosque Road, Frazer Town. RAVICHANDRAN N

Taking flight

Walking Wings is more than an exhibition of miniatures; the collection encapsulates perceptions of the self

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

Would you walk if you could fly? As inane as that sounds, there are times when your wings are broken and all you can do is take one step at a time till they heal. It is this spirit of resilience that visual artist Preksha Tater has captured in her series Poetics of Faces.

"As an artist, I was always interested in the disfigurement of images. In 2014, I read an article on survivors of acid attacks and it touched me deeply. I began reading more and the following year, I met with these survivors at Sheroes Hangout in Agra," says Preksha, who has made Bengaluru her home.

"Though they had been dealt such a harsh blow, they did not let it get in the way of their dream. Your self-worth and psyche take a beating when such mutilation is inflicted on you. Yet, that didn't stop them from carrying on with their lives; the way they now looked was no deterrent to reaching their goals."

Preksha felt their outlook on life was in sharp contrast to the perception of self and an obsession with wanting the 'perfect photo' prevalent today. Gradually, she began researching other forms of scarring for her work. "There is a marked difference in one's psychology when it is a congenital defect versus an accident and I was trying to understand it."

Small wonders Preksha Tater and her work. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Poetics of Faces comprising four box works of sculptures and drawings inspired by acid attack survivors is one part of Preksha's solo show Walking Wings. The exhibition has around 50 of her drawings and other works created over the past seven years.

Having learnt painting and mural work while pursuing her Masters in Fine Arts from Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara, Preksha says she gradually got into sculptures, drawn by her fascination with dimensions.

Though her ongoing exhibition consists mostly of miniatures and drawings, quite a few of Preksha's outdoor creations scale upwards of 60 feet. She prefers using epoxy over other media that require moulding and casting.

Preksha says she began working with miniatures after she started collecting broken stubs of charcoal pencils. "I use an ordinary paper cutter to carve my pieces. I also use wood, thread, brass, terracotta and glass, and fashion whatever comes to mind at the moment."

"Don't stop yourself from reaching your dreams. You may not be able to fly, but you can go slow."

Walking Wings by Preksha Tater will be on at Gallery Time and Space till April 16, 2023.

With the *Jasmine Villa* series, author Andaleeb Wajid tells the tale of three sisters and their lives

Three grooms for three sisters

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

Despite having published an impressive number of books, this is the first time Andaleeb Wajid has brought out a completed series at once. Titled *Jasmine Villa*, this tri-part series published by Westland, traverses the lives of three siblings – Tehzeeb, Ana and Athiya – where each is the protagonist in their respective book.

"*Jasmine Villa* didn't come to me as a series at first. I did want to write about three sisters and Tehzeeb's story was fully formed in my mind when I started writing, but I didn't know what was going to happen with the others," says Andaleeb.

"I wanted to write about a girl from a lower middle-class family who marries into an upper middle-class family and how she deals with a different culture. It is about how she tries to make a place for herself there and not lose her individuality. While I was writing the first book, *One Way To Love*, I realised how the second sister's story would unfold," adds the Bengaluru-based author.

Talking about where she draws the inspiration for her books, Andaleeb says it usually is, "the germ of an idea or an incident which starts building and expanding in my mind. I don't let go of it, but I often forget where it originated."

Thrice told tale Author Andaleeb Wajid. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Andaleeb has always enjoyed being a storyteller. "In school, I would entertain the class with horror stories culled from black and white Hindi movies whenever the teachers were absent or delayed for a class."

She recalls how her first short story was published in a local daily a few days after her first child was born and how with all the commotion they missed it altogether. "We didn't know it had been published until someone showed it to us."

Even with the challenges of being a new mother, Andaleeb continued writing "in quiet moments of sanity" and started developing lengthier works of fiction, eventually bringing out her first novel in 2009.

"It was a Young Adult novel, though back then we didn't have that label yet. It was a coming-of-age story about a young girl trying to find direction in life."

Now, 40 books later, Andaleeb says her journey hasn't been easy. "It takes hard work to not give up, to constantly write and not give in to the voice in my head that says 'you're no good'. Then I remind myself why I started writing – I write because I love writing."

Even though most people look down on romance novels and popular fiction that doesn't deter Andaleeb. "I hope my books encourage girls everywhere to ask for more from life, to not just settle. I write about relatable people in relatable situations and I believe my books bring a measure of entertainment to readers."

The *Jasmine Villa* series certainly has its share of entertainment complete with sibling rivalry, pesky relatives, misunderstandings galore and happy endings for girls who dare to ask for more.

The Jasmine Villa series – One Way To Love, Loving You Twice and Three Times Lucky – is available online and in bookstores.

STEPOUT

Act it out

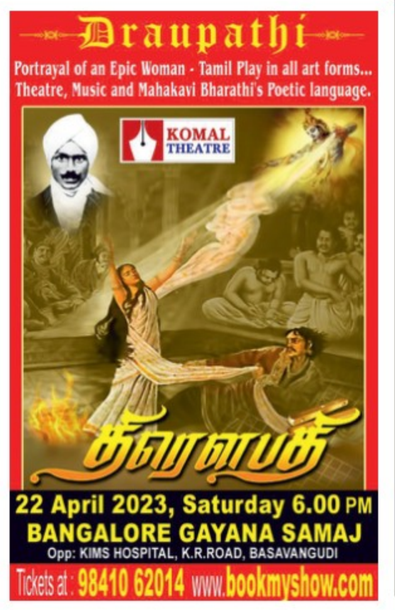
Tahatto's 1-Weekend Theatre workshop for Beginners, Act One, is open to those aged 17 years and above. Fee is ₹4,499. Register on https://pages.razorpay.com/actone2023
On April 15 and 16, at Atta Galatta.

Double the joy

Madhulita Mohapatra and Nrityantar Dance Ensemble will present two dance productions – a dance ballet on *Ramayana* and Shoonya to Sufi. Tickets costing ₹500 are at the venue and BookMyShow.
On April 16, 3.30pm and 7.30pm at Jagriti, Whitefield.

On a higher plane

The book, *Following a Prayer* by philosopher-author Sundar Sarukkai will be released by artiste Krishna Prasad.
On April 14 at Bookworm, 6pm. Entry is free.



Unity in diversity

Opposition parties must recognise their differences while coming together

Parties opposed to the BJP are often at loggerheads with one another, and any coordinated action among them is never easy. Contradictions are many, at the ideological and personal levels; and they represent conflicting interest groups in most cases. Some tend to be guarded in their approach to the BJP, and when they turn strident against it, it is most often to safeguard their home turfs. The meetings between Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and other party leaders such as the Congress's Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, the CPI(M)'s Sitaram Yechury and the AAP's Arvind Kejriwal, in New Delhi were exploratory rather than decisive. What is clear, however, is an increasing realisation among non-BJP parties that mutual animosities might turn them into easy prey for the BJP, whose hunger for power is infinite. The fact that most of these non-BJP parties were born out of antagonism to the Congress – and the BJP's national rival – makes finding common ground even more evasive. The BJP is the hegemon in the Hindi heartland, while it faces resistance from regional parties in several States. An alliance between the regional parties does not lead to any transfer of votes as they exist in different regions. Some of these parties are rivals at the State level, as in the case of the Left and the Congress in Kerala. Therefore, pre-poll alliances are of limited consequence, generally speaking.

But there are certain States where parties could come together to aggregate anti-BJP votes, most importantly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where several parties are in the fray. A lot will depend on how well the Congress manages to galvanise support in States where it is the BJP's primary opponent, as in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka. Social justice parties such as the JD(U) and the RJD in Bihar, and the SP and BSP in Uttar Pradesh can coordinate their actions with the Congress. Mr. Nitish Kumar's role is important from this point of view, but social justice politics itself is facing a crisis of legitimacy in the face of Hindutva. Alliances are important, but a shared programme and vision, amplified by sustained outreach to the public, are more important. The significant differences of opinion among key Opposition leaders over the Adani controversy, and V.D. Savarkar are cases in point. Any Opposition front will have to concede the wide variety of opinions and interests that exist among its key actors. The challenge for them is to discover common ground where they can converge. A puritan idealistic pursuit is an untimely luxury at the moment; in any case, that will not be a match to the ideological cohesiveness of the BJP.

Neutral, not passive

India should push for a pragmatic solution to the Ukraine conflict

The visit by Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Emine Dzhaparova to India, the first such by a senior government official from the East European country since its invasion by Russia, demonstrates Kyiv's desire to build tighter ties with New Delhi and seek its help in resolving the conflict. Earlier, Ukraine had publicly expressed its displeasure over India's position on the war. In August last year, Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba had attacked India's energy purchases from Russia, saying it involved "Ukrainian blood", and that Kyiv expected "more practical support" from New Delhi. But Ms. Dzhaparova sounded more pragmatic when she said Ukraine did not want to instruct India on its energy and economic ties with other countries, but that her nation was fighting an existential battle. The war has left India in a difficult position. Russia is a historical partner which India has deep defence ties with and there is no easy, immediate alternative here. And, Russia's aggression is a naked violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and international laws. The war has also made India's ties with its western partners complicated as the trans-Atlantic powers, led by the United States, have launched an economic war against Russia, from which India and most of the Global South have stayed away.

What India has done is to try and navigate this maze of geopolitics through realpolitik – it has refused to condemn Russia, maintained defence and trade ties, as well as expressed its uneasiness with the war and called for respecting the territorial integrity of all nations. But as the war drags on, this balancing act could be interpreted as inactiveness. India is the chair of the G-20 and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and will be pressed to do more to show global leadership and help end the war. The conflict has hurt not only Europe but also the entire world and there is growing consensus among the countries in the Global South that the hostilities should cease at the earliest. China and Brazil have sensed this urgency and have hinted at playing a bigger role in brokering peace. India should not shy away. New Delhi has good ties with Moscow, and Ms. Dzhaparova's visit suggests that Kyiv is also looking to India to play a bigger role in peacemaking. India's policy towards the conflict is rooted in its strategic neutrality. But neutrality does not mean that it should do nothing, waiting for the conflict to run its course. It should empathise more vocally with the victim, raise the voice and interests of the Global South, and call for upholding international laws and sovereignty of all states, while at the same time pushing for a pragmatic and permanent solution to the conflict.

Deciphering campaign financing in Karnataka

Asim Ali

is a political researcher and columnist

As Karnataka heads to the ticket distribution stage of its upcoming Assembly election (single phase on May 10), we are likely to revisit the murky tale of illicit campaign financing in politics. Karnataka has come to exemplify the post-liberalisation 'crore*pati*-isation' of Indian politics. In the last election, 97% of the elected State Members of the Legislative Assembly were crore*patis*. According to a report by the election watchdog, the Association for Democratic Reforms, Karnataka legislators were also dubbed the highest earning Members of the Legislative Assembly in the country, based on average assets amounting to a staggering ₹34.59 crore.

The stranglehold that rich local elites have on grass-root politics has been widely characterised in media and policy advocacy circles as that representing the degradation of electoral democracy – one of a corrupt feudal raj that is helmed by businessmen-politicians. The centrality of ideas and programmes in party competition is often said to have been replaced by the dominance of wealth and local elite-controlled patronage machines. Specifically, the advocates of electoral reform paint the interlocking patronage machines (networks of power and wealth distribution that bind local political elites downwards to fixers/intermediaries and upwards to faction/state-level leaders) as pathological entrenchment that inevitably corrodes the three pillars of a functioning democracy.

These pillars of democracy are as follows: one, the concept of representation; since 99% of the electorate of any State is made up of non-crore*patis*, the political class is deemed to be socio-economically alien to the electorate they are meant to represent. Two, the concept of participation; local elites are associated with elite capture or closing off of the political process to individuals outside of a narrow clique of businessmen politicians. And, three, the concept of accountability; local patronage machines are associated with corruption, rampant factionalism, fragmentation of state authority, and also the gradual dismantling of party organisation and related accountability mechanisms.

However, this gloomy portrayal of rising money-power leading to a deficit of grass-roots democracy not only constitutes a lopsided depiction of political reality but also exhibits a wilful blindness to the contradictions and trade-offs inherent in the process of democratisation. Indeed, the evolution of Karnataka politics over the decades demonstrates how representation, participation and accountability are inherently contested concepts, which might carry different meanings for different constituencies.

The State has come to exemplify the post-liberalisation 'crore*pati*-isation' of Indian politics

Questions of representation, participation

Political scientists Milan Vaishnav and Devesh Kapur trace the explosion of illicit campaign financing in Karnataka to the reign of Congress Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs. A follower of Indira Gandhi's pro-poor populist strategy, Devaraj Urs was a transformative pioneer of backward caste/class social engineering whose political legacy still informs State politics and has inspired the redistributive, pro-AHINDA politics (the desire for a coalition between backward castes, Dalits, tribals, and Muslims, who form over four-fifths of the population) of prospective Congress Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

During the decades of Congress dominance, the powerful landed castes of Lingayats and Vokkaligas (along with a smattering of upper castes) controlled the political economy through a process of vertical electoral mobilisation, routed through a Congress organisation commanded by dominant castes and which only provided limited pathways for upward group mobility. Political scientist Mary E. Breeding has argued in her paper, "The Micro-politics of vote banks in Karnataka" (2011), that the big change in post-Urs Karnataka politics has been the transformation of patronage-based vote-banks from a hierarchical, opaque, and vertical form of mobilisation to a more de-centralised, responsive and horizontal form of mobilisation.

Similarly, according to James Manor, a long-term scholar of Karnataka politics, Devaraj Urs encouraged illicit campaign financing primarily as a means to undercut the traditional, dominant caste leadership of his political opponents (dominant caste rivals in his own Congress organisation, or the competitor Janata Dal which had also rooted itself among Vokkaligas and Lingayats). Instead, Urs strove to create a counter-elite of marginalised communities outside of traditional party structures, plugging them into the centre of high-rent patronage networks helmed by him.

These counter-elites brought forth substantive representation (relative bargaining power in terms of policy formulation/implementation) to marginalised communities which had long been straight-jacketed into descriptive and symbolic forms of representation. As the post-Green Revolution socialist turn of North Indian politics also attests, progressive politics of the marginalised is only made possible through a baseline amassing of economic capital by co-ethnic elites, often by underhanded means. Consider the case of B. Sriramulu, the tribal Valmiki Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator who presides over the Reddy brothers-supported political machine in Ballari (Bellary). The BJP was not only forced to rescind Mr. Sriramulu's expulsion over corruption allegations but also had to acknowledge his personalistic ownership of the Valmiki vote-bank, as the community deserted the BJP all over northern Karnataka for Mr. Sriramulu's fledgling breakaway party. The data from previous Lokniti post poll studies suggests that 33% of Karnataka voters vote primarily for local candidates, as opposed to say 15% in Uttar Pradesh.

Lastly, personalistic/factional coalitions in Karnataka have also encouraged pluralistic coalitions over the exclusive or polarising patterns of the BJP's ideological mobilisation. The Lingayats, for example, the core base of the BJP, favour the party for patronage opportunities rather than ideological affinity. When B.S. Yediyurappa broke away from the party before 2013, much of the Lingayat power base (legislators, religious leaders, businessmen and roughly one-half of the former BJP Lingayat-voter base) joined the strongman's breakaway unit. This might also explain the BJP central leadership's contradictory strategy of placing Bommai on the throne (for fear of alienating volatile Lingayats) while also allowing ideologically extreme party/affiliate factions to undermine his leadership.

Issue of accountability

Now, to the point of accountability. Like the old Jewish conception of religious sin (rooted not in any independent moral standard) but in the breach of covenant between leader and the chosen community of followers, the political sin of corruption eludes any objective or independent measuring standard. The politicised sections of marginalised communities might see concessions/incentives for corporates as a form of corruption; the privileged classes might see the distribution of gifts and goods to the poor during elections as a form of corruption. There is considerable scholarly literature on election-eve spending as that rare period when political machines privilege the poor over the rich, and the portrayal of election-eve gifts as not constituting vote-buying bribes but signals to convey winnability and a tokenistic gesture of long-term patronage dispensing ability. The difference between corruption and good governance perhaps hinges on what constitutes the sacred political covenant and who is perceived to belong to the chosen community of followers.

The goal of building a popular Dalit agenda

Harish S. Wankhede

is Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

It is to the credit of modern liberal ideas, capitalist development and democratic churning that Dalits are now a well-recognised social and political force – a transformation made possible under the maverick leadership of B.R. Babasaheb Ambedkar. However, Ambedkar's vision to elevate Dalits as an independent religious community or to improvise their lot as the dominating political force in the democratic battles has not yet been realised.

There is a looming fear as the government of the day has been aggressive in adopting neo-liberal economic policies that often undermine social justice safeguards meant for the emancipation of historically marginalised communities. Further, the Hindutva ideological agenda considers independent Dalit assertions as a challenge to the politics of cultural nationalism. The threats and surveillance against the Dalit socio-political movement have been accentuated, relegating it to a passive powerless location today.

A vision for social justice

Ambedkar realised that the colonial regime opened the doors of modern institutions to various marginalised social groups, welcoming them to become an integral part of democratic processes. Constitutional principles allowed the untouchable castes in particular to raise their grievances effectively and reprimanded the social elite leadership for their exclusive exploitation of state power and social privileges. Ambedkar hoped that the policy of job reservation or Dalit representation in legislative bodies would induce the substantive democratisation of political power and introduce Dalits as influential shareholders in modern institutions.

Second, Ambedkar visualised that non-political public spaces (educational institutions, media, culture and art industries) should be democratised, allowing Dalits to play an effective role as entitled citizens. Further, the state would take effective measures to cultivate a sensitive public culture and punish offenders who practised caste or community-based discrimination. In modern India, it was expected that people would enjoy the profits of cosmopolitan culture without much fear of social discrimination and harassment. Ambedkar also believed that modernity should not be adored only for elevating the untouchables as a special category that would require the perpetual assistance of the state. Instead, he expected that Dalits must escape the burdened social identity (by converting to Buddhism) and reduce their dependency on the state. He imagined Dalits to be the natural leaders of historically deprived groups.

There may be a visible Dalit presence on Ambedkar's birth anniversary, on April 14, but the fact is that the community has many battles to fight

Dalit assertion

Influenced by Ambedkar's socio-political directives, Dalit intervention in the public sphere has been to demand social dignity, independent cultural rights and political power. The affirmative action policies of the state have helped a significant Dalit section to emerge as a crucial segment of the mainstream middle class, allowing them to enjoy the profits of urban life. The arrival of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in the 1980s was possible due to the committed support of the Dalit middle class. However, various sections within the Dalits have not shown sincere attachment to the social justice movement and remained hegemonised by conventional cultural values, even drifting towards political options considered as antithetical to the politics of Dalit emancipation.

Second, on the social and cultural front, Dalits introduced themselves as an assertive and independent alternative. Today, Ambedkar's life-size statues in many cities are a visible marker of the dignified presence of Dalits in public spaces. Further, Dalits organise impressive public events (celebration of Constitution Day), or the birth anniversaries of revolutionary icons or the organisation of massive gatherings at historic sites to showcase their elevated sense of equality and dignity in public life. Dalits have introduced themselves as the proponent of alternative cultural values and have democratised the public sphere. Third, it is in electoral battles that Dalits have witnessed their growing marginalisation. With the periodic decline of the BSP in Uttar Pradesh as a commendable mainstream party, the possibility that the national regime can be governed under Dalit-Bahujan leadership has been derailed. Interestingly, it is the BJP that often claims itself to be an inclusive party, representing the interests of the worst-off Dalit-Bahujan castes. In Maharashtra, Bihar, Telangana and Tamil Nadu, though there are impressive social and political mobilisations by Dalits, these have limited capacities to overturn the domination of the nationalist parties, especially the BJP juggernaut at the Centre.

The realities

The post-Ambedkar Dalit activism has surely enlarged its presence and democratised the social and political sphere substantively. However the conventional class and caste relationships have not reformed much. Growing cases of caste atrocities, violence and assaults are enough to depress Dalit hopes for social emancipation. Further, even in modern institutions such as universities, the judiciary, the media and cultural industries, there is a marginalisation of Dalit participation. On Ambedkar's birth anniversary (April 14), the dignified public presence of Dalits may be visible, but there are few who look into their substantive issues about growing political marginalisation, a lack of representation in the institutions of power and their quest for freedom from the clutch of Brahmanical casteism. A rethinking is needed to build a popular Dalit agenda that mobilises the vulnerable and marginalised communities for a greater emancipatory project.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The first foray

The Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar, and his deputy, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, meeting Congress leaders, and thereafter calling on AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal can only be considered as baby steps towards forming a united Opposition front to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election (Page, 1, April 13). The parties opposed to the BJP are a long way away from giving definite shape to an Opposition front.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

The meet appears to be mirroring the activity one witnessed earlier at around election time. Will AAP allot any seat to the Congress? The answer is a big no. There is also the legal case of Rahul Gandhi, It is still uncertain which way the NCP will go. People want a strong government. Will the Opposition be able to match the BJP in this?

Yash Pal Ralhan,
Jalandhar, Punjab

Marina eviction drive

The clearing, in Chennai, of fish stalls put up by resident fisherfolk on the busy Marina Beach Loop Road to make way for cars can by no means be justified. The area, next to the sea, has always been their colony with the public patronising the area to buy fish. News reports state that the eviction operation was peaceful. How else would it be? What could the poor fisherfolk do? It is a wrong notion that the poor must always give way to the rich lest we forget that the rich live largely on the concessions of the poor. The decision is one that should be reversed at the earliest. The place must be left exclusively for fisherfolk to vend their wares and eke out a livelihood.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Royal victory

It was a royal victory for Rajasthan Royals against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in M.S. Dhoni's 200th match as the captain of CSK. For the kind of depth in the CSK batting line up, the total of 175 was not a big target to chase. It was just complacency in the middle order which resulted in CSK's defeat. The match was once again Dhoni's battle. One has to appreciate Sandeep Sharma who kept his nerve to contain CSK.

A.P. Thiruvadi,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Is the current regulatory system equipped to deal with AI?

Ajay Shah

is Research Professor of Business at O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat

Apar Gupta

is executive director of the Internet Freedom Foundation

PARLEY

The growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and their deployment has raised questions about privacy, monopolisation and job losses. In a discussion moderated by **Prashanth Perumal J.**, Ajay Shah and Apar Gupta discuss concerns about the economic and privacy implications of AI as countries try to design regulations to prevent the possible misuse of AI by individuals and governments. Edited excerpts:

Should we fear AI? Is AI any different from other disruptive technologies?

Ajay Shah: Technological change improves aggregate productivity, and the output of society goes up as a result. People today are vastly better off than they were because of technology, whether it is of 200 years ago or 5,000 years ago. There is nothing special or different this time around with AI. This is just another round of machines being used to increase productivity.

Apar Gupta: I broadly echo Ajay's views. And alongside that, I would say that in our popular culture, quite often we have people who think about AI as a killer robot – that is, in terms of AI becoming autonomous. However, I think the primary risks which are emerging from AI happen to be the same risks which we have seen with other digital technologies, such as how political systems integrate those technologies. We must not forget that some AI-based systems are already operational and have been used for some time. For instance, AI is used today in facial recognition in airports in India and also by law-enforcement agencies. There needs to be a greater level of critical thought, study and understanding of the social and economic impact of any new technology.

AS: If I may broaden this discussion slightly, there's a useful phrase called AGI, which stands for artificial general intelligence, which people are using to emphasise the uniqueness and capability of the human mind. The human mind has general intelligence. You could show me a problem that I have never seen before, and I would be able to think about it from scratch and be able to try to solve it, which is not something these machines know how to do. So, I feel there's a lot of loose talk around AI. ChatGPT is just one big glorified database of everything that has been written on the Internet. And it should not be mistaken for the genuine human capability to think, to invent, to have a consciousness, and to wake up with the urge to do something. I think the word 'AI' is a bit of a marketing hype.

Facial recognition technology. GETTY IMAGES

Do you think the current regulatory system is equipped enough to deal with the privacy and competition threats arising from AI?

AS: One important question in the field of technology policy in India is about checks and balances. What kind of data should the government have about us? What kind of surveillance powers should the government have over us? What are the new kinds of harm that come about when governments use technologies in a certain way? There is also one big concern about the use of modern computer technology and the legibility of our lives – the way our lives are laid bare to the government.

AG: Beyond the policy conversation, I think we also need laws for the deployment of AI-based systems to comply with Supreme Court requirements under the right to privacy judgment for specific use-cases such as facial recognition. A lot of police departments and a lot of State governments are using this technology and it comes with error rates that have very different manifestations. This may result in exclusion, harassment, etc., so there needs to be a level of restraint. We should start paying greater attention to the conversations happening in Europe around AI and the risk assessment approach (adopted by regulators in Europe and other foreign countries) as it may serve as an influential model for us.

AS: Coming to competition, I am not that worried about the presence or absence of competition in this field. Because on a global scale, it appears that there are many players. Already we can see OpenAI and Microsoft collaborating on one line of attack; we can also see Facebook, which is now called Meta,

> The primary risks which are emerging from AI happen to be the same risks which we have seen with other digital technologies, such as how political systems integrate those technologies.
> **APAR GUPTA**

building in this space; and of course, we have the giant and potentially the best in the game, Google. And there are at least five or 10 others. This is a nice reminder of the extent to which technical dynamism generates checks and balances of its own. For example, we have seen how ChatGPT has raised a new level of competitive dynamics around Google Search. One year ago, we would have said that the world has a problem because Google is the dominant vendor among search engines. And that was true for some time. Today, suddenly, it seems that this game is wide open all over again; it suddenly looks like the global market for search is more competitive than it used to be. And when it comes to the competition between Microsoft and Google on search, we in India are spectators. I don't see a whole lot of value that can be added in India, so I don't get excited about appropriating extraterritorial jurisdiction. When it comes to issues such as what the Indian police do with face recognition, nobody else is going to solve it for us. We should always remember India is a poor country where regulatory and state capacity is very limited. So, the work that is done here will generally be of low quality.

AG: The tech landscape is dominated by Big Tech, and it's because they have a computing power advantage, a data advantage, and a geopolitical advantage. It is possible that at this time when AI is going to unleash the next level of technology innovation, the pre-existing firms, which may be Microsoft, Google, Meta, etc., may deepen their domination.

How do you see India handling AI vis-à-vis China's authoritarian use of AI?

AS: In China, they have built a Chinese firewall and cut off users in China from the Internet. This is not that unlike what has started happening in India where many websites are being increasingly cut off from Indian users. The people connected with the ruling party in China get monopoly powers to build products that look like global products. They steal ideas and then design and make local versions in China, and somebody makes money out of that. That's broadly the Chinese approach and it makes many billion dollars of market cap. But it also comes at the price of mediocrity and stagnation, because when you are just copying things, you are not at the frontier and you will not develop genuine scientific and technical knowledge. So far in India, there is decent political support for globalisation, integration into the world economy and full participation by foreign companies in India. Economic nationalism, where somehow the government is supposed to cut off foreign companies from operating in India, is not yet a dominant impulse here. So, I think that there is fundamental superiority in the Indian way, but I recognise that there is a certain percentage of India that would like the China model.

AG: I would just like to caution people who are taken in by the attractiveness of the China model – it relies on a form of political control, which itself is completely incompatible in India.

How do you see Zoho Corporation CEO Sridhar Vembu's comments that AI would completely replace all existing jobs and that demand for goods would drop as people lose their jobs?

AS: As a card-carrying economist, I would just say that we should always focus on the word 'productivity'. It's good for society when human beings produce more output per unit hour as that makes us more prosperous. People who lose jobs will see job opportunities multiplying in other areas. My favourite story is from a newspaper column written by Ila Patnaik. There used to be over one million STD-ISD booths in India, each of which employed one or two people. So there were 1-2 million jobs of operating an STD-ISD booth in India. And then mobile phones came and there was great hand-wringing that millions of people would lose their jobs. In the end, the productivity of the country went up. So I don't worry so much about the reallocation of jobs. The labour market does this every day – prices move in the labour market, and then people start choosing what kind of jobs they want to do.

To listen to the full interview
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NOTEBOOK

In search of stories and a good night's sleep

Reporting on crime can be hard, but talking to victims of heinous crimes is the greater challenge

Abhinay Deshpande

As a crime reporter in Telangana, I wrote about several heinous incidents, including the murder of a married and heavily pregnant woman by her live-in partner and his lover, and the gang rape and murder of a 27-year-old veterinary doctor by four persons who were later killed by the police in an alleged exchange of fire. My family and friends often ask me how I sleep at night. While the simple answer is that I am used to my job, what is harder than falling asleep is to actually speak to the victims of such barbaric acts and pose questions that make them talk about the very events that they may want to forget.

Recently, as Maharashtra correspondent, I visited Kolhapur district. I was to report on the condition of sugarcane workers who had migrated from the drought-hit Marathwada region to the irrigated western parts of the State to earn their livelihood. While traversing vast sugarcane fields and makeshift camps on the premises of factories, I met women labourers who explained how difficult their lives are. During one such interaction, I asked a woman who was about 30 if she had undergone "the surgery". She stared at me: either she did not understand what I was saying or was just too incredulous to respond. The second time, my question was more unambiguous: had she had undergone hysterectomy or what they call the removal of the "uterus bag"? She was taken aback. I was worried that she would yell at me or call her co-workers to the spot for asking such a personal question. But to my relief, she said no. She asked me how I knew about this. I told her that I had heard about the issue during my college days in Aurangabad.

She was then shocked for a second time when I spoke about menstruation. She was from Beed district where many women who go to work in sugarcane fields do not discuss personal issues. She told me that the men in her family and village never talked about menstruation. She found it hard to fathom that men even knew much about it. I then posed

the same question to other women working on sugarcane fields. They ignored me or refused to answer the question. As I later reported, women labourers in these regions undergo hysterectomy so that they can stop menstruating and be more productive. Some of the contractors who pay them dictate these rules.

I was more worried about my next question on the rape of women labourers by *mukaddams* (contractors) and male co-workers. After talking to the labourers for some time and earning their trust, I asked if they knew anyone who had been raped by her contractor, co-worker, tractor driver, or factory worker. Such incidents are not new in the sugar belt. But no one talked about it. The women were clearly uncomfortable with my questions. Most of them just ignored me and returned to their work. But one woman chose to speak up. She told me that she was lucky to have a "good contractor" who only harassed the women when it came to making payments and not otherwise. But some of her relatives and some villagers she knew were repeatedly raped, she said. The greater tragedy was that their husbands knew about it and did nothing to stop it. "If the man of the house tries to confront the contractor, the couple will lose their contract. The contractor will inform the other contractors and they will avoid employing the couple as well. It is a matter of livelihood, so the women simply suffer," she said.

I returned to Mumbai, hoping that I did not make the women too uncomfortable with my questions and that the report would shed some light on their plight. That night, sleep did evade me.

deshpande.abhinay@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Aurora of the sea in Vizag

A stretch of the beach at Bheemili near Visakhapatnam glows due to a natural phenomenon called bioluminescence. Bioluminescence occurs due to the presence of single-celled organisms called dinoflagellates that produce light when they are disturbed. While bioluminescence on the beach is a natural phenomenon, it is being reported on large stretches of this beach for the first time. K.R. Deepak

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 14, 1973

Russia refutes Chinese charge

Tokyo, April 13: The Soviet Union described a Chinese suggestion that it was seeking to dominate Asia as a "product of a sick imagination." Mr. A.E. Nesterenko, Chief Soviet delegate, addressing the U.N. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far-East, also quoted a Soviet proverb, "He who spits into the wind may have to wipe his own face." He was rebutting the charge by the chief Chinese delegate, Mr. An Chin-yuan, yesterday that the Soviet Union was "menacing the peace and security of Asia." Mr. An had condemned the Russian-proposed Asian collective security pact as an attempt to establish hegemony over the entire region. Mr. Nesterenko said: "the fact that such a system would be collective would not serve any purpose of dismembership, but rather that of unity, on a basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and independence in Asia." The chief Russian delegate revealed that when it was reported in some capitals that the collective security system was designed to encircle China, the Communist Party Chief Mr. Brezhnev had described this as groundless. "The People's Republic of China would be a full-fledged member of such a system," he explained.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 14, 1923

Trade strike

Simla, April 12: A cable from Zanzibar dated 11th from the deputation of the Dar-e-Salaam Indian Association contradicts the Colonial Office's statement regarding the Tanganyika strike.

It is pointed out that the ordinance were equally opposed by Europeans, Goanese, Indians, and Arabs. Europeans and Goanese took licenses only under protest, while Indians who were more vitally affected as it was impossible for them to keep accounts compulsorily in English, took a stronger attitude.

From Page One

Goods exports grew 6%, imports 16.5% this fiscal

"Slackening external demand amid the global slowdown in the second half last year, along with the moderation in global commodity prices hurt non-oil exports and these concerns are set to exacerbate this year," Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, said. This could lead to a deeper contraction in merchandise exports in 2023-24, affecting manufacturing output and dragging down GDP growth, she added.

"Important segments like engineering and gems and jewellery witnessed negative growth and we may expect further slowdown in exports," Madan Sabnavis, the Bank of Baroda's chief economist, said.

Moreover, with the rupee seeing an appreciating tendency, the currency advantage will be weaker for exporters. Imports may slow a little as domestic growth slows down, but could keep putting pressure on the deficit, which could increase if oil prices harden, he cautioned.

Russian imports surge

Fuelled by discounted oil shipments, India's imports from Russia grew almost 370% to over $46 billion in 2022-23. Russia's share in imports leaped from 1.6% in 2021-22 to 6.5% last year, making it the fourth largest import source nation for India, behind China, the UAE and the U.S.

China's share of goods imports dipped to 13.8% in the year gone by from 15.4% in 2021-22, officials said. However, imports from the country still grew 4.2% to reach $98.5 billion last year, while exports to China fell 28% to just $15.3 billion. Indian shipments to China now account for just 3.4% of total exports, from over 5% in 2021-22.

Coal, oil imports up

While petroleum imports jumped about 30% to nearly $210 billion in 2022-23, coal imports grew at a faster 57% to almost touch $50 billion. Gold imports, on the other hand, fell around 24% to $35 billion as global prices for the metal surged and the rupee turned weaker.

The U.S. remained India's top export destination, followed by the UAE, while the Netherlands emerged as the third largest goods buyer, displacing China to the fourth position in 2022-23.

With the government setting a $2 trillion target for goods and services exports by 2030 under the new Foreign Trade policy, the apex exporters' body FIEO sought marketing support to sell their wares around the world and an exemption from the Goods and Services Tax levied on freight for goods shipments.

BBC's 'foreign exchange violations' under audit

"During the course of the survey, the Department gathered several evidence pertaining to the operation of the organisation which indicate that tax has not been paid on certain remittances," said the agency.

As alleged by the Department, services of seconded employees (staff internally transferred on a temporary basis) had been used, for which reimbursement was made by the Indian entity to the foreign entity concerned. "Such remittance was also liable to be subject to 'withholding tax' [the amount employer deducts from the employee's salary and pays to the government as the individual's tax liability], which has not been done...the survey has also thrown up several discrepancies and inconsistencies with regard to Transfer Pricing documentation," it had said.

Atiq Ahmed's son Asad shot dead in Jhansi encounter

Asad and his associate Ghulam, who was also killed, were wanted in the Umesh Pal murder case; former MP breaks down in court after hearing about son's death; U.P. CM praises police action

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed's son Asad and his associate Ghulam, both wanted in the Umesh Pal murder case, were killed in an encounter with the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force in Jhansi on Thursday.

Asad and Ghulam carried a reward of ₹5 lakh each and were killed in an encounter with the task force team led by Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) Navendu and Vimal, said Special Director-General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar in Lucknow. "Sophisticated foreign-made weapons were recovered," he added.

After the encounter, a report was submitted to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who lauded the efforts of the State police.

This comes more than 45 days after the murder of lawyer Umesh Pal, a witness in the 2005 murder of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLA Raju Pal in Prayagraj. The lawyer, along with his two police guards, was shot dead outside his home. Former MP Atiq Ahmed, his brother Khalid Azim, alias Ashraf, wife Shaista Parveen, Asad and 10 others were named as accused in the case.

The police said Asad and Ghulam, who have been absconding since the murder, opened fire at a task force team around noon on Babina Road in Jhansi and were killed in "retaliatory action".

Earlier, Mr. Ahmed and his brother Mr. Ashraf were produced at the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) court in Prayagraj, in connection with the Umesh Pal murder case amid heavy security. The court sent the former MP and his brother to 14-day judicial custody. The former MP, reportedly, broke down in court and cried upon learning of his son's death.

Ground work: Police personnel at the site of the encounter in which Asad was killed by a task force in Jhansi on Thursday. PTI

'Fake encounter'

After the encounter, political temperature in U.P. heated up with the ruling BJP congratulating the State police for swift action and the Opposition calling it a "fake encounter".

Samajwadi Party (SP) president and Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Akhilesh Yadav alleged the BJP does not believe in courts and demanded a thorough investigation. "With false encounters, the BJP government is trying to divert attention from the real issues," he said.

BSP chief Mayawati also demanded a high-level inquiry. The family of Pal thanked the U.P. government and Mr. Adityanath. "I thank Yogi Adityanath*ji* for providing justice. It is a tribute to my son," said Shanti Devi, Pal's mother.

Yet another death at Bathinda; no link to Wednesday's carnage

Press Trust of India
BATHINDA/NEW DELHI

A massive hunt is under way to nab the assailants who killed four soldiers in military station

A massive hunt was under way on Thursday to nab the assailants behind the killing of four soldiers in a firing incident at the Bathinda military station, even as the base reported the death of another person due to gunshot wounds.

The Army said the death of the soldier on Wednesday afternoon had no connection with the firing incident.

"A soldier died of a gunshot wound at approximately 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday at Bathinda Military Station. The soldier was on sentry duty with his service weapon. The weapon and cartridge case from the same weapon was found next to the soldier. The gunshot wound was near the right temporal region," the Army said in a statement.

It said the soldier was immediately evacuated to the military hospital, but he died of his injuries.

"The case purportedly seems to be of attempted suicide," the Army said.

However, a senior official said it could be a case of accidental firing as well.

'Accidental firing'

"There is no connection whatsoever with the incident that took place at 4.30 a.m. at Bathinda military station," the Army said.

Bathinda Cantonment Station House Officer (SHP) Gurdeep Singh said they received information regarding the death of the soldier on Wednesday evening.

"*Prima facie* it appears to be an accidental firing case," said the SHO.

The deceased was identified as Laghu Raj Shankar, said the police.

The police said a hunt for the assailants behind Wednesday morning's firing incident at the station, was under way.

Modi raises security of High Commission with Rishi Sunak

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a telephone conversation with his British counterpart Rishi Sunak and raised the issue of security of the Indian High Commission in London.

An official statement said Mr. Modi also pressed Mr. Sunak for the "return of economic offenders" and the two leaders also agreed to conclude a "mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement" between the two countries.

"PM Modi raised the issue of security of Indian diplomatic establishments in the U.K. and called for strong action against anti-India elements by the U.K. government. PM Rishi Sunak conveyed that the U.K. considers the attack on Indian High Commission totally unacceptable and assured of security of the Indian Mission and its personnel," an official press release stated.

Earlier, MEA official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Thursday said the security for the Indian High Commission and the Indian personnel stationed in the U.K. is part of an "ongoing conversation" that Delhi is holding with London. "We wanted to see action on the ground. We have been urging host countries including the U.K. to take action against those who vandalised the flag and as well as High Commission, identify them, take action against the perpetrators."

Earlier, news reports in the U.K. media had suggested that India had "disengaged" from the FTA talks which were however denied by South Block which termed the reports "baseless".

Rahul's plea for stay on conviction: Surat court to give verdict on April 20

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

A Surat sessions court has set April 20 as the date when it will pronounce its order on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's plea for a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case filed by a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator over Mr. Gandhi's remark about the "Modi surname" during the campaign for the last Lok Sabha election.

Additional sessions judge R.P. Mogera heard arguments from both sides on Thursday and posted the matter for April 20 to pronounce his order.

Arguing for Mr. Rahul, his lawyer R.S. Cheema contended that the trial in the defamation case over the Congress leader's "Modi surname" remark was "not fair" and that there was no need for maximum punishment in the case.

Rahul Gandhi

'Out of context'

Earlier on March 23, a metropolitan magistrate's court had sentenced the former Congress president to two years in jail after holding him guilty for his remark, "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname", made during an election rally in Karnataka in 2019. Following his conviction and sentencing for two years, Mr. Gandhi was disqualified as a Member of Parliament from the Lok Sabha.

Mr. Cheema said that the magisterial court should have heard Mr. Gandhi's entire speech, which he claimed was not defamatory, arguing that it was quoted out of context to make a case for defamation.

He added that the judgment delivered by the magistrate was "strange", because the magisterial court "made a hotchpotch of all the evidence on record".

Meanwhile, advocate Harshit Toliya for the complainant said that his client was hurt by Mr. Gandhi's speech and therefore he came to the court. He also contended that Mr. Gandhi had refused to apologise before the court.

Delhi HC asks CBI, ED to file submissions in 2G case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Enforcement Directorate (ED), former Telecom Minister A. Raja and others to give their submissions in the appeals filed by the investigating agencies against the 2G case verdict which acquitted Mr. Raja and others.

Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma told all the parties in the case that the written submissions must not exceed five pages and posted the case for hearing on May 22.

In December 2017, a Special CBI Court here had acquitted Mr. Raja, Ms. Kanimozhi and others in the CBI and ED cases relating to the 2G case noting that the prosecution had "miserably failed" to prove the charges.

UGC notifies new rules for grievance redressal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified on Tuesday a new set of regulations for redressal of grievances of students.

It will be applicable to all higher education institutions recognised by the UGC and each institution should set up a portal within July 11 where an aggrieved student can submit application seeking redressal of grievance. Non-compliance of the regulations may invite punishment, including cancellation of the recognition of the institution.

The regulations ask institutions to make public details of the teaching faculty, information on physical and academic infrastructure and other amenities accessible by students on being admitted to the institution in a transparent manner.

'No external monitoring mechanism in India to take erring police officers to task'

In America, wrongful procedure leads to mistrial but, here, when the police do something illegal, it does not vitiate the outcome of the trial; when an illegality takes place, all that you may get is bail or compensation, says retired HC judge

INTERVIEW

Justice K. Chandru

Sonikka Loganathan

Following a case of custodial violence in Ambasamudram in Tamil Nadu, the issue of police excesses are back at the forefront. There were 478 custodial deaths reported in Tamil Nadu between 2016-17 and 2021-22 and no arrests, chargesheets or convictions in the period. Retired Madras High Court judge Justice K. Chandru says that there needs to be some external monitoring, rather than only government mechanisms, to hold the police accountable.

Is there any loophole in Article 21 (Right to Life) and 22 (Rights of Accused) that allows police to perpetrate violence?

Following the 1986 case of *D.K. Basu vs West Bengal*, the Supreme Court issued 11 guidelines to accompany Article 22.1. According to them, a Magistrate should ask the accused whether he has a medical problem, caused by the police. They generally don't ask and write "no complaints", meaning the accused never said anything. At the time, the accused is sufficiently warned [by the police].

Data show that in India there were no convictions in custodial death cases in recent years. Why is no one held accountable?

In America, wrongful procedure leads to mistrial.

But, in India, when the police do something illegal, it does not vitiate the outcome of the trial. Even if they illegally enter your house and find contraband, they can chargesheet it. So when an illegality takes place, all that you may get is bail or compensation. Beyond that, we do not have a mechanism by which these officers can be taken to task. In the U.S., you can sue the police for civil damage, we can't do that here. There is no external check, it is through the mechanisms of the government you are trying to supervise them.

Data shows that Schedule Caste (SC) detainees in Tamil Nadu experience custodial violence at disproportionately higher rates. Why is this so?

When it comes to SCs and adivasis, the custodial torture and killings are much higher. In case of "Denotified Tribes" too it's much higher as nobody in the village is going to support them. Even in the chargesheet, the police write "KR" before their name for Koravar, and "IR" for Irular. The High Court said it should not be used, but none agreed. The only way to stop oppression is to accept them as part of the village. Unless there is social mobility and organisation, this will not stop.

Do you think that having CCTVs in jails will help solve this problem?

To avoid detection, police now have places elsewhere where the accused will be taken and beaten. They also come up with new theories to get over the law. We don't have an institutional form of human rights organisation which can continuously fight. Secondly, there must be civilian supervision in police stations and if something happens they can visit. So monitoring should be legalised by civil society in some form.

For full interview and podcast, scan the QR code)

Statistics on attacks on Christians wrong, Centre submits in SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

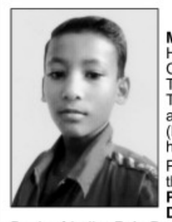
The Centre on Thursday said petitions filed in the Supreme Court alleging increasing incidents of attacks on Christians are devised to keep the "pot boiling" and give an "exaggerated" and wrong impression.

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, said statistics given by the petitioners to prove their case of attacks on the religious community were wrong. The petitions had alleged that attacks against Christians saw an "exponential rise" post 2022.

In a 217-page affidavit, the Centre said a majority of the incidents alleged, 263 out of 495, in the list were not even reported to the State authorities.

Mr. Mehta said the petitions had sent out a wrong message that Christians were in danger.

APPEAL



Master Sudesh Kumar, Son of Shyam Kumar Harijan 9 years admitted in Christian Medical College, is suffering from Thalassemia Major. This is a type of life threatening blood disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately **Rs. 15,00,000**/-.

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Sudesh Kumar. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Manjhi meets Shah, but says he stands firmly with Nitish

Row over meeting: Jitan Ram Manjhi during a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi on Thursday. ANI

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Jitan Ram Manjhi, chief of the Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM), a constituent of Bihar's ruling *mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance), may have tried to downplay any overt political meaning to his meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Thursday, but the BJP has insisted that it portends more desertions in the Nitish Kumar camp before the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Manjhi, a former Chief Minister of Bihar, met with Mr. Shah ostensibly to recommend that public figures from Bihar like Dasarath Manjhi and former Chief Ministers Karpuri Thakur and Srikrishna Sinha (the first Chief Minister of the State) be honoured with the Bharat Ratna, and asked that nothing more be read into the visit.

"I am with Nitish Kumar, who is working hard to unite the Opposition irrespective of whether he becomes Prime Minister of the country or not," Mr. Manjhi said.

BJP MLA Vijay Sinha, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, however, categorically stated that a political change was under way in Bihar politics.

Big change in Bihar

Speaking to *The Hindu*, he said, "A big change is under way in Bihar, there is a fear in the *mahagatbandhan* that Nitish Kumar, due to his ambitions, may sink the whole ship; therefore, many are preparing to jump ship. Let 2023 pass, Nitish Kumar will stand alone. Possibly his 'international unit president' Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh may be by his side but no one else."

After the BJP and the Janata Dal(U) parted ways for the second time in 2022, the BJP has been without allies in Bihar. While leaders like Upendra Kushwaha have left the JD(U), the BJP is expecting more desertions as the JD(U) comes more and more under the influence of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in Bihar with Nitish Kumar concentrating on national politics and ambitions.

In fact, Mr. Sinha had pungent words about Mr. Kumar's visit to New Delhi and attempts to forge a unified Opposition with the Congress and other parties.

"After setting fire to Bihar, he is trying to set fire to the entire country. Everyone knows that this man has no principles or vision. Nitish Kumar had in the past fought against corruption of Lalu Prasad, with the BJP acting as Chanakya making him Chandragupta (Mauryan emperor). This fake Chandragupta is now hand-in-glove with the same Lalu Prasad whom he fought against earlier. The Congress that he (Mr. Kumar) fought against in the name of social justice, is now his ally. For his ambition, he is ready to fall at anyone's feet and is insulting the name of Bihar. Such people who flip sides and have no ideology or principles are not trusted by the people. Such opportunists are dangerous for democracy," he said.

Mr. Sinha said that Mr. Kumar's sojourn in Delhi, while Biharisharif and Sasaram (where there was violence over Ram Navmi celebrations) "is burning" was a "betrayal of Ram Manohar Lohia and Karpuri Thakur".

"He is inciting caste and communal feelings in people," he said.

Opposition mulls 2004 and 1996 models to fight LS polls

Nitish calls on Yechury, Raja; conversations during Bihar CM's tour underline two alliance options — UPA model with Congress as fulcrum and the previous model with Cong. kept outside

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's two-day tour to Delhi during which he met Congress and Left parties is being seen as a first step towards constructing a cogent Opposition strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The conversations over the past two days underline two options for the Opposition – the 2004 United Progressive Alliance model with the Congress as the fulcrum and the 1996 United Front model with the Congress kept outside. The Opposition is evenly divided into these two camps.

On Thursday, Mr. Kumar met CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and CPI general secretary D. Raja before returning to Patna in time for Ambedkar Jayanti on Friday. He had held a meeting with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday.

Planning ahead: Sharad Pawar during a meeting with Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and K.C. Venugopal on Thursday. ANI

In a follow-up to the meeting with Mr. Kumar, Mr. Kharge met NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, with Mr. Gandhi and Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal joining in.

"Stronger, together! We stand united for a better, brighter and an equal future for our people," Mr. Kharge said.

The Aam Aadmi Party, the Trinamool Congress, the Samajwadi Party and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi are convinced with the 1996 model. During Mr. Kumar's meeting with Mr. Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi, the Congress asked him to begin dialogue with the parties that are not "comfortable" with the Congress, underscoring the importance of the 1996 model.

But a few major Opposition forces – the DMK, NCP, Left parties and the RJD – insist that a strong attack on the BJP cannot be mounted without the Congress at the core of any Opposition formation, as in the 2004 model.

Though Mr. Kumar has openly backed a Congress-led front, he can foresee a better future for himself in the former model. Once Mr. Kharge and Mr. Kumar talk to both the camps, a larger meeting is planned towards April-end.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Yechury said the Opposition had to simultaneously work on three lines. "The seat-sharing arrangement to maximise the anti-BJP votes has to be worked out at the State level, keeping the political peculiarities in mind. Second, at the national level the front-line leadership of Opposition parties must conduct joint campaign to emphasise the necessity of safeguarding the socio-democratic character of India... The third level is rallying on common issues like the threat to the federal structure and Centre-State relationship," he explained.

(With inputs from Sandeep Phukan)

Those criticising MUDRA scheme don't understand power of microfinance: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that those who facilitated loans for big corporate houses by calling up banks were making fun of MUDRA, the microfinance scheme of the government.

He said people who call themselves economists underestimated the importance of microfinance.

Mr. Modi made the comments while virtually addressing the National *Rozgar Mela* on Thursday where he distributed 71,000 appointment letters to new Central government recruits.

Mr. Modi's statement came after former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said in a tweet that 83% of

Narendra Modi

MUDRA loans are under ₹50,000, wondering, "What kind of business can be done today with a loan of ₹50,000?"

Women beneficiaries

He said ₹23 lakh crore worth of bank guarantee-free loans have been disbursed under the scheme and more than 70% of beneficiaries are women.

"This scheme has created 8 crore new entrepreneurs. These are the people who have started their business for the first time with the help of Mudra Yojana," he said. Mr. Modi also highlighted the power of microfinance in energising the economy at the grassroots level.

"Even today, these people are making fun of microfinance. They do not understand the potential of the common man in the country," the Prime Minister said.

After distributing the appointment letters, Mr. Modi said that the process for government recruitment is taking place at a fast pace in the NDA-ruled States, from Gujarat to Assam and Uttar Pradesh to Maharashtra.

Muslim Personal Law Board chief passes away

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

Renowned Islamic scholar and president, All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Rabey Hasani Nadwi, passed away in Lucknow after a prolonged illness. He was 94.

Known for his ability to take everybody along, Mr. Hasani was also the vice-president of Riyadh's Aalami Rabita Adab-e-Islami, a founding member of the Muslim World League.

Considered among 500 most influential Muslims in the world, he constantly advised the community to refrain from anger and violence, and follow the path of patience, particularly when it came to controversial issues such as the Babri Masjid issue and the more recent cases of triple talaq and mob lynching.

INBRIEF

Arms, cash dropped by drone recovered in Rajouri: Army

Five AK magazines and cash dropped from a drone was recovered near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Pir Panjal Valley's Rajouri district, the Army said on Thursday. The Army said during the intervening night of April 12 and 13, suspicious movement of aerial object was reported on the LoC in Beri Pattan area. "A cordon and search operation was launched and the movement of a drone was tracked," the Army said. A search operation is under way in the area, it added.

SC sets aside order for CBI probe in Pramanik attack case

The Supreme Court on Thursday set aside a Calcutta High Court judgment transferring the investigation into the alleged attack on the convoy of Union Minister of State for Home Nisith Pramanik in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud remitted the case back to the High Court for a fresh look at the evidence collected, investigation undertaken and arrests made by the West Bengal Police on FIRs registered in the case. The court's decision came in an appeal filed by the State of West Bengal against the March 28 judgment of the High Court.

Army, IAF hold multi-domain exercise on eastern sector

In the first week of April, the Army and the Indian Air Force conducted a multi-domain exercise in the eastern sector to validate joint plans for strategic airlift of specialised forces employing IAF aircraft and helicopters by landing and dropping in designated areas for undertaking kinetic actions to provide surge to ongoing operations by regular land forces, according to sources. As part of this, C-17 Globemasters, Chinooks and Mi-17 helicopters undertook the insertion into designated greenfield landing zones with surgical precision.

India signs MoU with WFP for sending wheat to Afghanistan

India on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Food Programme (WFP) paving the way for sending 10,000 tonnes of wheat for the people of Afghanistan. The signing ceremony between officials of the Ministry of External Affairs and the United Nations WFP was held in Mumbai where the WFP said it had the required infrastructure on the ground to ensure speedy delivery of wheat to the most vulnerable sections of the Afghan population.

Removal of Azad's name from textbook draws flak

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Criticising the move to remove references to India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in the new National Council of Educational Research and Training Class 11 political science textbook, the Congress on Thursday accused the Modi government of wanting to "rewrite" history and pass on a "distorted legacy built on lies". The Congress was responding to an exclusive news report by *The Hindu*.

Clyde Crasto, national spokesperson of the NCP said, "The NCERT must clarify and answer the citizens of India why they have deleted the name of Maulana Azad in the new textbook..." Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Sitaram Yechury tweeted, "Such vengeful rewriting of history to create a false narrative... destroys the foundations of modern India".

Documentary on Modi govt. successes to air on DD today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Doordarshan National will broadcast *Dharohar Bharat Ki - Punruthaan ki Kahaani* (Heritage of India: a tale of revival), a two-part documentary on the achievements of the Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The series, to be aired at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, traces Mr. Modi's vision and its execution to build new national iconic sites. It will narrate the story of the revival of our spirit of cultural unity and pride, said a release.

"The documentary will be anchored by popular digital media presenter Kamiya Jani. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his exclusive interaction for the documentary, has said: 'Our soldiers devote their entire lives and sacrifice every fibre of their being to safeguard every inch of our motherland. Their sacrifice cannot just be measured in words; its grandeur and import have to be brought alive to inspire future generations'," the release said.

Cultural pride

"In line with his vision, the documentary will showcase the huge strides made by India in the last few years for the revival of India's spirit of cultural unity and pride," said the release.

It added that some of the topics presented in the documentary will be "ascertaining the security as well as the sanctity for patriotic sites such as Jallianwala Bagh; resuscitating the splendid fervour of our civilisational centres such as Ram Janmabhoomi, Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Somnath Dham and Kedarnath Dham, and according respect to spiritual sites such as Kartarpur Sahib."

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EMD Amount	Rs. 10,000/-
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	2nd May 2023 (04.00 PM)

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232413 000304	Multicolour Laminated Wrapper Reels of various sizes (base 80 GSM with 10 Micron Polyester)	27.04.2023
E-Mail	232413000302 - purchase.civil@tnpl.co.in 232413000304 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in	

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KATTANKULATHUR CAMPUS

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- Workshop on Millets: Science, Technology & Innovation (**Free Registration**)
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Key Contacts
Dr. K.A. Athmaselvi, Assoc. Professor, NIFTEM-T, Mob: 9600007823
Dr. K, Srinivasan, Adjunct Faculty, NIFTEM-T, Mob: 9842639565
Dr. S. Thirugnanakumar, Professor and Head, SRM College of Agriculture Sciences, Mob: 9788598493
Dr. A. Anbarassan, Assistant Professor & Head (i/c), SRM College of Agriculture Sciences, Mob: 9566622737

For further information please contact: THE DIRECTOR
National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T) (an Institute of National Importance) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613005.
Email: nmschennai@iifpt.edu.in
Web: www.niftem-t.ac.in

A term that saw three Chief Ministers in Karnataka

Karnataka saw three Chief Ministers between 2018 and 2023: H.D. Kumaraswamy, B.S. Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai. Mr. Yediyurappa was sworn in twice. He was sworn in on May 17, 2018, but had to step down within a week, when he could not prove a majority. After 17 MLAs from the Congress and the Janata Dal (S) quit their parties and brought down the coalition in 'Operation Kamala', he was sworn in again on July 26, 2019. The State has had three Chief Ministers in a term thrice earlier. The ninth Assembly (1989-1994) had Veerendra Patil, S. Bangarappa and Veerappa Moily; 12th Assembly (2004-2008) had N. Dharam Singh, H. D. Kumaraswamy and B.S. Yediyurappa and 13th Assembly (2008-2013) had B.S. Yediyurappa, D. V. Sadananda Gowda and Jagadish Shettar.

B.S. Yediyurappa

Gauging the electorate size

The number of electors in Karnataka as per the Election Commission of India's latest report is 5.24 crore. When compared to the electorate size in parliamentary elections across 202 countries, Karnataka stood at the 17th position

Rank	Country	Registered voters (in cr.)
1	United States	22.8
2	Indonesia	19.3
3	Brazil	15.6
⋮		
15	Turkey	5.9
16	Iran	5.8
17	Karnataka	5.2
18	Thailand	5.1
19	France	4.8
20	U.K.	4.8

■ The number of registered voters in Karnataka exceeded that of France and the U.K., which had about **4.8 crore voters each**

Awareness drive: A human circle, formed as part of voter-awareness activities, by bike-riders at Koppal on Tuesday.

Compiled by: Thanmaya Prakash
Source: Election Commission of India & International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Cong. veteran is ready for another battle at the age of 92

Senior Congress leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa, 92, was the oldest MLA in the outgoing Assembly. He has been fielded again by the party from Davangere Rural. Mr. Shivashankarappa had won the 2018 polls by a margin of 71,369 votes against the BJP's Yashavantha Rao Jadhav.

Congress will not come to power as it does not have candidates for nearly 60 to 65 constituencies

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
Chief Minister

Bellwether polls herald a crucial election season running up to 2024

Holding on to the only southern State where it's in power will be a huge boost for the BJP; for the Congress, a victory will embolden it to claim the leadership of a non-BJP front

NEWS ANALYSIS

S. Bageshree
BENGALURU

With the notification issued on April 13 for the Karnataka Assembly election on May 10, the stage is set for a pitched poll battle in the southern State where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) holds the reins of power and faces a stiff challenge by the Congress and its combative regional leaders. A third dimension is the Janata Dal(S), a regional party with a history of making pacts with both the national parties – none of which ever last very long – whenever there are no clear winners.

A lot rides on the outcome of the Karnataka polls for all parties nationally and for the very nature of politics locally. This is the first in a series of State elections to follow this year, before the 2024 Lok Sabha election. In the south, Telangana is where the BJP hopes to make a mark next, and holding on to the only southern State that it currently rules will be a huge boost for the saffron party.

For the Congress, a victory here will embolden it to claim the leadership of a non-BJP front, while a defeat will dampen this effort. The results here will set the tone for other elections including those in the three big States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

The ruling BJP in Karnataka, facing palpable anti-incumbency and carrying the ignominious tag of a "40% commission government", is hoping to return to power by pitching for accelerated growth under the "double-engine government" and parading Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a mascot of this promise. While Lingayat strongman B.S. Yediyurappa is still a mass leader to reckon with at 80, the party is keen to use his influence but not quite so keen to depend on him or on a single-caste vote bank. Many of its moves close to the end of its term – of wooing the other dominant caste of Vokkaligas, realigning the Other Backward Classes reservation matrix, or hiking the quota for SCs/STs – are signs of this effort.

More significantly for the BJP, these elections will test whether charges of corruption and misgovernance, besides traditional caste calculations, can be overtaken by the aggressive Hindutva agenda that the saffron party has pursued over the last year, beginning with the hijab row.

Past results

The tables show the party-wise number of seats won and votes secured in the past two elections in Karnataka

2018

Party	Seats	Vote %
BJP	104	36.2%
Cong.	78	38.0%
JD(S)	37	18.4%
BSP	1	0.3%
KPJP*	1	0.2%

*Karnataka Pragnyavantha Janatha Party

2013

Party	Seats	Vote %
Cong.	122	36.6%
BJP	40	19.9%
JD(S)	40	20.2%
KJP^	6	9.8%
BSRCP#	4	2.7%

^Karnataka Janata Paksha
#Badavara Shramikara Raitara Congress Party

At the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the BJP had snagged a massive vote share of 51.75% in the State

Hindutva agenda

After the 2019 Lok Sabha election, when the BJP snagged a massive 51.75% vote share in the State, the party is perhaps emboldened to shun moderate Hindutva and pursue a more aggressive form of it. It is keen to see that this push, along with new caste calculations, would allow it to cross the halfway mark of 113 on its own for the first time.

For the Congress, this election will show whether the grand old party has the political and organisational acumen to gain from whatever resentment that people might have against the government. However, the party has consistently appeared somewhat confused on how to face the BJP's aggressive Hindutva agenda, constantly dreading the tag of "anti-Hindu" that the BJP spares no chance to stick on it, often leaving only former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah the standalone voice against it. On the flip side, while the BJP has no competition for its Hindutva plank, the Congress faces serious claimants – including the JD (S), the AIMIM and the Social Democratic Party of India – for minority votes.

Internally, the party faces the challenge of ensuring that the competing pitches to occupy the Chief Minister's post by its two top leaders – D.K. Shivakumar and Mr. Siddaramaiah – does not undo its prospects even before the first vote is cast.

For the JD(S), this election is a fight for survival and identity, given that the BJP is at its heels in its traditional stronghold in Old Mysore with its Vokkaliga vote base. Mr. Shivakumar, from the same community, is hoping to garner a piece of the caste pie. Meanwhile, fissures within the family of JD (S) patriarch H.D. Deve Gowda over tickets and power sharing are now out in the open.

In the run-up to the poll, the State has seen narratives shift many times from caste and communalism to corruption and regional identity issues. But as the date for the filing of nominations opens, all parties are huddled to draw up their final list of candidates with "winnability" – often a euphemism for caste-backing and spending power – as the criterion. In a State that has seen seizures by the Election Commission already crossing the ₹100 crore mark, there is cynicism brewing among voters about the democratic process itself.

EC's seizures ahead of polls see a huge rise from 2018

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Since March 29, when the Model Code of Conduct came into force in Karnataka, the Election Commission has made seizures of items with a total worth of ₹144 crore, including cash, liquor, drugs, and metals. In fact, the EC had seized cash and articles worth nearly ₹58 crore between March 9 to 27, even before the election date was announced. It has identified 81 expenditure-sensitive constituencies this year.

As of April 13, the cumulative seizures of the 2023 election (from March 29 when the election was announced) is more than four times the amount seized in the 2018 election. During the corresponding period in 2018, a sum of ₹43.74 crore had been seized. Overall during the 2018 election, over ₹185.74 crore had been seized.

Attributing the high seizures to increased enforcement activity by various agencies and active vigilance by State electoral machinery, Additional Chief Electoral Officer Venkatesh Kumar R. told *The Hindu* that distribution of freebies is rampant this election. "The two largest freebie hauls that have been seized are from Bengaluru and Shivamogga. While freebies worth ₹4.5 crore were seized in Shivamogga, a consignment worth ₹3.6 crore was seized in Byatarayanapura in Bengaluru," Mr. Kumar said.

cVIGIL app

Pointing out that increased citizen participation in enforcing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has also helped, the official said as many as 2,389 complaints have been received through the cVIGIL mobile application so far. As many as 1,979 complaints were found to be correct, he said.

Marker of democracy made in Mysuru: unit from royal era turns out indelible ink

Bhagya Prakash K.
MYSURU

Fair franchise: A worker at Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd. filling the indelible ink into vials. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Every single election in India has a link with Mysuru, the city of palaces in Karnataka, as Mysore Paints & Varnish Ltd. is the only company authorised to produce the indelible ink used in general elections in the country.

It was back in 1937 that the Maharaja of Mysore, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar, established the factory, Mysore Lac & Paint Works Ltd., which manufactured lac used for manufacture of sealing waxes, and paints.

The unit was converted into a public limited company in 1947, and in 1962, it was selected to manufacture the indelible ink, which was first used in the country's third general election. From then till now, the company has supplied the ink for every Lok Sabha, Assembly and local body election across India. It has also exported the ink to more than 30 countries. Nearly a hundred workers in the company get busy when its main customer, the Election Commission of India, places orders during polls.

The ink is made of chemicals formulated in a laboratory and the entire process of its mixing, bottling, sealing, packing and transportation is carried out in a well-secured area. Each vial containing 10 ml of ink would suffice for the fingers of 700 voters.

The unit in Mysuru is busy again now, as Karnataka heads to Assembly election on May 10. It has already supplied about 1.3 lakh vials of ink for the poll.

Ballot on a band

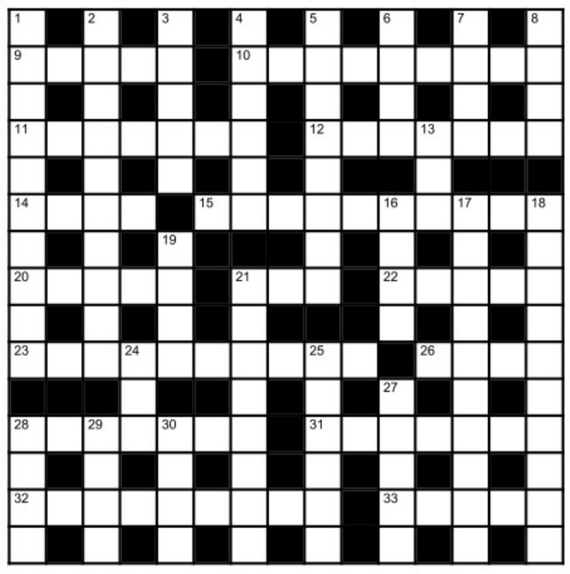
A supporter shows a gold ring with the photo of Congress leader Yousuf Shariff, alias KGF Babu, who filed the nomination papers for the Assembly election from the Chickpete constituency in Bengaluru on Thursday. The Congress leader shot to fame when he declared ₹1,743 crore of assets in his MLC election affidavit for the Bengaluru Urban seat in 2021, becoming the richest politician in Karnataka. PTI

TH CROSSWORD + 13839

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Creature possesses endless, overwhelming appetite (5)
10 Creature natural at flying (9)
11 Little hero is terrible show off (7)
12 Bulk of mass transport with a dark eye-catching colour (7)
14 Love being cuddled by lover? Sigh! (4)
15 A secret oil in a pickle is not everyone's cup of tea (10)
20 City in Netherlands, one without joy (5)
21 Path followed by turning car (3)
22 Naked Hulk in large slip (5)
23 Zaire and Japan essentially flipped out for a Central Asian state (10)
26 Place or lair, suitable for everyone (4)
28 Rob leaves quietly after bold misjudgement (7)
31 No ordinary covering - just regularly consumed fruit (7)
32 Turning into a grim demographic phenomenon? (9)
33 Novel by Agatha Christie, initially set standards (5)

Down

1 Aura around his head, first man returned embodying Zoroastrianism's principal deity (5,5)
2 Sort of a vivid tree by-product (10)
3 It is spoken in parts of suburban Turin (5)
4 It makes us? True! (6)
5 Powerful doctor and a mother almost click (8)
6 Unconventional skin colours (4)
7 Occasionally seen cloud near moon (4)
8 Art represented by a divinity in Tibet (4)
13 Cold and hot current that flows throughout human body (3)
16 Widespread disastrous fire (4)
17 Complain about deal going cold without a warning (11)
18 Basic chemistry paper checking? Finding it's not 'basic' perhaps! (6,4)
19 Small but wasted remnant (4)
21 Basic fallout of atmospheric pollution! Not basic, actually! (4,4)
24 Stretch one out! Break! (3)
25 A trail of success? (6)
27 Small cannot mean insignificant (5)
28 Hit bottom quietly (4)
29 Guard goes off occasionally for drive (4)
30 Face ring (4)

SUDOKU

8	2	5		6			1	
		3			4			
							5	
6			4		7	3		
3								9
		1	3		9			8
	7							
			1			4		
	6			3		5	9	2

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS5768 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	T	C		A	E	T		M		G				
L	O	G	O		S	A	Y	S	O		E	M	I	T
	P		N		I		E		W		X		F	
S	I	T	C	O	M		W	E	N	T	I	N	T	O
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I	M	P	R	O	V	E	S		A	T	O	N	C	E
	I		T				H		L				H	
E	X	H	I	B	I	T		F	L	A	T	T	E	R
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			D		R		R		U		A			
T	A	C	I	T	U	R	N		R	A	D	O	M	E
	M		T		D		K		A		I		I	
B	I	T	E		E	J	E	C	T		N	I	L	E
	D		D		S		Y		E		G		K	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	5	4	7	1	6	9	3	2
3	9	6	2	4	8	1	7	5
2	7	1	9	5	3	6	4	8
6	1	5	4	3	7	2	8	9
7	3	2	8	9	1	4	5	6
4	8	9	5	6	2	3	1	7
1	4	7	6	2	5	8	9	3
5	6	3	1	8	9	7	2	4
9	2	8	3	7	4	5	6	1

FAITH

Essence of Tamil New Year

The Tamil New Year traditionally falls on the first day of the Tamil month Chittirai. One can find references in early Tamil literature to the month of Chittirai, heralding the new year, wherein the sun travels each year from Mesha rasi (chittirai), beginning mid-April and progressing through the eleven succeeding zodiac signs. To this day, Tamils and many other communities follow this calendar and celebrate the first day of Chittirai as the New Year. Just as how the sun finishes his residency in the twelve zodiac houses and returns to first sign, Mesha, so too do humans finish a year of navigating life and look forward to fresh beginnings, and auspicious events, said Thirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh in a discourse.

Why is the month of Chittirai celebrated across ages and cultures? Why is the season, Vasantha as it is known, so endearing? What causes the mood of upliftment, positivity and hope for a better future? In the Ramayana, Valmiki says, "*Chaitra: shreeman ayam maasa:, punya: pushpitha kaanana:*" The sage likens Chittirai to Lord Narayana. Just as how Narayana is the Primordial One, so too is Chittirai aadhi among months. Perumal is always kind to His devotees and is always pleased to shower His blessings upon them; similarly, Chittirai showers people with soft, beautiful flowers. Valmiki further says that the trees are crowned with the glory of full blooming flowers, reminding one of the crown on Narayana's head.

Chittirai is also a reminder to us to embark on fresh endeavours with full energy, reposing full faith in Narayana. Chittirai is the month when Rama was born, when He was crowned.

AUSTIN

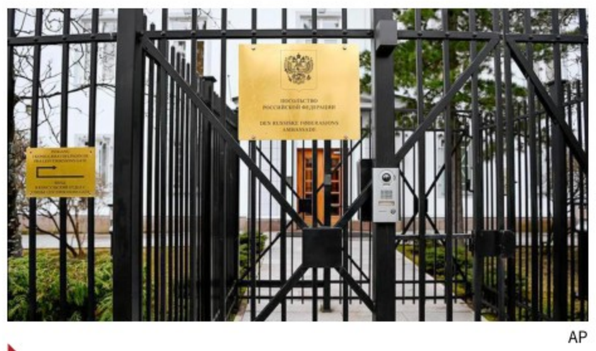
U.S. court preserves access to abortion pill but tightens rules

AP

A federal appeals court in the U.S. ruled that the abortion pill mifepristone can be used for now but reduced the period of pregnancy when the drug can be taken and said it could not be dispensed by mail. The decision temporarily narrowed a ruling by a lower court judge in Texas that blocked the drug's approval. AFP

COPENHAGEN

Norway expels 15 Russian diplomats suspected of spying



AP

Norway said it was expelling 15 Russian diplomats from the country, saying they were suspected of spying while working at the Russian Embassy in Oslo. The government said the move was "an important measure to reduce the scope of Russian intelligence activities in Norway, and thereby secure our national interests." AP

ISLAMABAD

Pak. SC halts implementation of Bill limiting chief justice's powers

REUTERS

Ignoring calls to stop interfering in the domain of Parliament, Pakistan's Supreme Court stopped operationalisation of a Bill aimed at clipping the powers of the chief justice. It observed that prima facie the proposed law infringed the powers of the apex court to frame its own rules and it merits a hearing by the court. PTI

KABUL

Taliban share rare audio message from supreme leader Akhundzada

AP

The Taliban have shared a rare audio message from their supreme leader, who says justice is an instrument for the Afghan government's survival. Hibatullah Akhundzada, an Islamic scholar, almost never appears in public and hardly ever leaves the Taliban heartland in southern Kandahar province. AP

Brazil is back, says Lula during state visit to China

Brazilian President is scheduled to meet Xi Jinping, with whom he will discuss the Ukraine war; former Brazil leader Dilma Rousseff takes charge as president of BRICS New Development Bank

Agence France-Presse
SHANGHAI

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva promised on Thursday that "Brazil is back!" during a state visit to China aimed at strengthening trade ties and winning support for his push for peace in Ukraine.

Mr. Lula, who arrived in Shanghai on Wednesday, is seeking to reposition Brazil as a key global player after four years of relative isolation under his predecessor Jair Bolsonaro.

"The time when Brazil was absent from major world decisions is in the past," Mr. Lula said at a ceremony to inaugurate his

New outlook: Lula, left, and First Lady Rosangela "Janja" da Silva at a Huawei research centre in Shanghai on Thursday. REUTERS

political ally Dilma Rousseff as president of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB).

Lula will spend Thursday in Shanghai before heading to the Chinese capital to meet his counterpart Xi Jinping, with whom he is expected to discuss the Ukraine war on Friday.

Both China and Brazil have positioned themselves as mediators in the conflict, despite Western concerns that they are overly cosy with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Shanghai leg of Lula's trip has highlighted another key goal of the visit – to deepen economic links between the two countries. China is Brazil's biggest export market, buying tens of billions of dollars worth of soybeans, beef and iron ore.

Ms. Rousseff, a former leader of Brazil, will head the NDB, a multilateral lender jointly set up by Brazil, China, Russia, India and South Africa, until 2025.

After the inauguration ceremony, Lula visited a research centre run by telecom giant Huawei.

U.S. Air National Guardsman suspected of leaking secret documents to be arrested

Reuters
WASHINGTON

An Air National Guardsman suspected of leaking highly classified U.S. documents that have embarrassed Washington with allies around the world will be arrested on Thursday in Massachusetts, a source familiar with the situation told Reuters.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not elaborate. A spokesperson for FBI headquarters did not respond to a Reuters request for comment.

U.S. President Joe Biden earlier on Thursday said investigators were closing in on the source of the leak in what is believed to be the most serious security

President Joe Biden had earlier said investigators were closing in on the source of the leak

breach in years.

Separately, the *New York Times* reported that the leader of an online group where the secret documents were posted is a member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

It named him as Jack Teixeira, a National Guardsman who led Thug Shaker Central, an online group where about 20 to 30 people shared their love of guns, racist memes and video games. The Times cited interviews and documents it reviewed.

The U.S. Department of Justice opened a formal criminal probe last week after the matter was referred by the Pentagon, which is assessing the damage.

Sensitive details

Some of the most sensitive leaked details are purportedly related to Ukraine's military capabilities and shortcomings, and information about U.S. allies including Israel, South Korea and Turkey.

Reuters has reviewed more than 50 of the documents, labeled "Secret" and "Top Secret" but has not independently verified their authenticity. The number of documents leaked is likely to be over 100.

Joe Biden to address Irish Parliament on 'homecoming'

Agence France-Presse
DUBLIN

U.S. President Joe Biden rolled into Dublin on Thursday, holding talks with Irish political leaders in the homeland of his ancestors, before a set-piece address to the country's Parliament.

Mr. Biden met Irish head of state Michael Higgins at his official residence before talks with the Taioseach (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar.

Watched by fellow octogenarian Higgins, Mr. Biden tapped into his Irish roots for a heartfelt message in the guest book. "As the Irish saying goes, your feet will bring you to where your heart is," he said he wrote, joking that he was going to stay in Ireland.

Riyadh readies Arab talks on Syria as diplomacy shifts

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia was preparing on Thursday to host an Arab regional meeting on ending Syria's isolation at a time of dizzying diplomatic shifts following its deal to resume relations with Iran.

Friday's nine-nation talks in Jeddah, the Red Sea gateway to Mecca, come after Syria's Foreign Minister arrived on a previously unannounced visit – the first since the outbreak of the country's civil war in 2011.

It was one in a flurry of events that were nearly unthinkable before Saudi Arabia and Iran's landmark, Chinese-brokered announcement on March 10 that they would resume ties, seven years after an acrimonious split.

And late on Wednesday, gas-rich Qatar and its tiny Gulf neighbour Bahrain agreed to re-establish relations, putting aside a long-running diplomatic feud.

On Friday, ministers and top officials from the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – along with Egypt, Iraq and Jordan will meet in Jeddah.

On the table is Syria's suspension from the Arab League, in place since President Bashar al-Assad's government launched a crackdown on pro-democracy protests in 2011.

ASEAN group 'strongly condemns' Myanmar air strike that killed dozens

Agence France-Presse
JAKARTA

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), criticised for its inaction over the deepening Myanmar crisis, strongly condemned air strikes that reportedly killed dozens of people.

"All forms of violence must end immediately, particularly the use of force against civilians," the 10-member bloc said in a statement issued by Indonesia, the 2023 chair of the regional bloc.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk said he was "horrified" and that its victims included schoolchildren performing dances.

In Dhaka's mushrooming crowded markets, fear of fire always lingers

Arun Devnath
DHAKA

On a Friday evening, they occupied a stretch of a crowded road to sell clothes from their carts after their shops were gutted by a catastrophic fire at the Bangabazar market, the biggest shopping place for cheaper products. Some of them found refuge in the dusky light beneath a flyover, past the disaster site. Some lit up their makeshift shops with mobile phone torches as the power supply was cut off to the area. The pungent smell of smoke was heavy in the air because small flames still smouldered, three days after the blaze burnt down thousands of shops. Traders and workers were forced to come onto the street to sell whatever they had to curious onlookers and the pedestrians hurrying home after work.

One of the clothing traders was Foyez Ahmed, 35. On the morning of April 4, he received a frightening phone call from his brother and rushed to the marketplace only to find it was already ablaze sending up flames and smoke. Although firefighters arrived on the scene within minutes of the first call for help, the fire went out of

Familiar scenes: Firefighters work to contain a fire that broke out at the Bangabazar market in Dhaka on April 4. AP

control due to the southern wind and ravaged the shops packed with clothes for the coming Id sales. As the firefighting efforts went on, the blaze expanded its arc, ripping through other adjoining markets. "I lost everything I had in the shop, and so did my brother," Mr. Ahmed said as he was sitting by the road hoping for some sales just ahead of Id-ul-Fitr.

Country of fires

Bangladesh is no stranger to massive fires. The South Asian nation reported 85 deaths in 24,102 fire incidents in 2022 compared with 219 deaths in 21,601 incidents a year earlier, according to data from the Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence. The number of fires at shopping malls and marketplaces rose to 589 in 2022 from 458 a year earlier. The Bangabazar fire is symptomatic of the Dhaka markets' unpreparedness and sheer negligence to prevent massive blazes because they lack warning systems.

Urban planners point to the strict enforcement of the law by government agencies as the way forward. "Their job doesn't stop at serving notice on risky buildings. They must enforce the law. They are authorised to shut those buildings if the fire code is not complied within 90 days from the first notice," Adil Mohammed Khan, executive director of the Dhaka-based Institute for Planning and Development, said in an interview.

Referring to an estimated loss of 2.88 billion taka (₹220 crore) from the Bangabazar fire, Mr. Khan said the investment in fire safety at the market would be a tiny fraction of it.

Dhaka, central to the country's middle-income future, is one of the largest and most densely populated cities in the world, regardless of how the boundaries of the city are delineated. The city is expanding in an unplanned and unchecked manner. It faces seemingly impossible challenges.

While some of these markets are death traps, they provide an economic lifeline to tens of thousands of workers migrating from rural backwaters to urban areas in search of jobs. For many, this low-paid work is the launchpad for a better future.

On the road past the burnt-out Bangabazar market, one of the young traders who lost their shops to the fire was Omar Faruk, 18. He was waiting for customers as the evening wore on. Unlike other traders, Mr. Faruk did not lose hope. "My father will sell a parcel of land to raise some money for me. We'll rent a new space for a shop somewhere," he said.

Arun Devnath is a journalist based in Dhaka.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 1st Re Etender No. WRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/7902/2022_5_2_1/1, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)-2022-23- CWSS to 13 Panchayaths based on Malankara Reservoir- (Package-II) - (1) Design, and construction of 45MLD Water Treatment Plant (Lamella type), (2) Clear Water Sump etc at Neeloor,(3) Supplying and Laying part of RWPM from Pothichottupara to WTP at Neeloor, (4) Supplying and Laying 150mm DI K9 Pumping/Conveyance main(s) from WTP at Neeloor to GLSR at Njallikunnu, (5) Supplying and Laying 450mm/200mm DI K9 Conveyance lines from WTP,(6)Supplying and Laying 700 mm DI K9 Gravity Main from WTP to Sump cum Pump house at Vettipparambu etc., **EMD :** 5,00,000/-, **Tender Fee :** Rs. ₹. 16540 +(₹2978) GST, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 28-04-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 0481 2562745.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
KWA-JB-GL-6-75-2023-24 **Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kottayam**

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). Email: pmd.civil@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Work Description	Due date
232413 000320	Renovation and Strengthening of RCC Chimney in Recovery Boiler #3 upto 90 Mtr height. (Refloat)	22.04.2023

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD etc., are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com/www.tenders.tn.gov.in. https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/2105/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)
(Accredited by NAAC) (ISO 9001 ; 2015)
(Dept.of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt.of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112. Phone: 044 - 27472113, 27472423. Mobile: 9444314716, Toll Free No: 18004250345 Kiran Mental Health Helpline No: 1800-599-0019
www.niepmd.tn.nic.in Email: niepmd@gmail.com, asponiepmd@gmail.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

NIEPMD invites EOI through NIC e-procurement portal URL **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** for Selection of Architects/Architectural Firms for Providing Comprehensive Architectural Services for the finalization of Proposed Plan for Development of NIEPMD Campus, at Muttukadu, Kovalam, Chennai -603 112 (Tamilnadu). The tender document can also be downloaded from our **website www.niepmd.tn.nic.in.**

Last date for E-bidding	1st May 2023 (03.00 PM)
EMD Amount	Rs. 25,000/-
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	2nd May 2023 (04.00 PM)

Sd/-
Director

LOOK OUT NOTICE

Wilson, S/O James, Galileo Nagar. 11, Pallithottam, Kollam West, Kollam District, Kerala is the first accused in Crime.790/2022 U/s 294(b), 323, 324, 308, 212 & 34 IPC registered at Pallithottam Police station. He is currently absconding and yet to be traced. If you have any information about this person, please inform the phone numbers mentioned below.

STATION HOUSE OFFICER, PALLITHOTTAM: 919497947129
SI OF POLICE, PALLITHOTTAM: 919497980198
PALLITHOTTAM POLICE STATION : 0474-2742042
RO/00893/F2/2023/I&PRD

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 10-04-2023 to 12-04-2023

Department of Agriculture

Tender ID: 2023_AGRI_571533_1 * State Agricultural Engineer * Lift irrigation projects for Various padashekharams in Wayan * Closing Date: 12-May-2023 * PAC: Rs60125602

Directorate of Treasuries

Tender ID: 2023_DOT_571296_1 * DIRECTOR OF TREASURIES * competitive e-tenders from Government accredited agencies en * Closing Date: 08-May-2023 * PAC: Rs 440000000

Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.
Ro.No:10-12/Apr/2023/PRD/(N)10

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works.

कार्य का शीर्षक तथा ई-निविदा सूचना सं. / Title of work & E-Tender Notice No.	पी.ए.सी./P.A.C.
टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में ब्रह्मप्रकाश कॉम्प्लेक्स में वीएलसीसी का विस्तार (सिविल कार्य) / Extension of VLCC at Brahma Prakash Complex at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil works), NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/01/2023-24 Dt. 13.04.2023	रु./Rs. 138.00 लाख/Lakhs
आरपीपी, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में नए अग्निशमन स्टेशन भवन का निर्माण (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of New Fire Station Building at RPP, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works), NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/02/2023-24 Dt. 13.04.2023	रु./Rs. 130.80 लाख/Lakhs
डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 14.04.2023, 10:00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 02.05.2023, 23:00 बजे/hrs	

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। / Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in.

Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / CMG, VSSC

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPRATMENT
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

No.: MD/ACCTS/WK-R-3/2023/466 Date: 11.04.2023
Name of the Work: "Supply of 01 no Pilot Launch on Hire for Three shifts operation per day along with operational crew for a period of five (05) years". **Estimated Cost: Rs.8,54,98,433/-** excluding fuel cost & GST. With reference to the above e-tender, last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is till 1500 hours on Dt.23.05.2023. Technical Bids shall be opened at 1630 hours on Dt.24.05.2023. For further details, please log on to the Website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Sd/-Dy. Conservator
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/04/2023-24 **dtd.13.04.2023**

INBRIEF

Isuzu India updates entire range to new emission norms

Isuzu Motors India said it had updated its entire range of pick-up vehicles and sport utility vehicles (SUVs) to conform to the new BS-VI Phase II emission norms. The refreshed passenger pick-up and SUV models now come with idle stop system, low friction tyres and the auto transmission fluid warmer in automatic variants, for improved fuel efficiency and reduced emission levels, the company said.

NTPC Green Energy plans public offer this financial year

State-owned power giant NTPC's arm NTPC Green Energy Ltd. (NGEL) is planning to raise funds through an initial public offering this fiscal, according to a source. NGEL is a fully-owned subsidiary of NTPC. Earlier, it had planned to sell 20% of NTPC's stake in NGEL to a strategic investor for ₹3,000 crore. The source did not disclose the quantum of funds to be raised through the listing. SBI Capital Markets will be the adviser for NGEL's listing, the source said. PTI

AI says taxibots will help curb 15,000 tonnes of fuel usage

Tata Sons-owned Air India (AI) has become the latest airline in the country to announce eco-friendly taxiing through robot tractors, also known as TaxiBots, at Delhi and Bengaluru airports for some of its Airbus A320 aircraft. AI said the switchover will help it save almost 15,000 tonnes of fuel in three years. One TaxiBot mission is estimated to save 200 kg, or 240 litres of aviation turbine fuel, said Ashwani Khanna, founder, KSU, which bought TaxiBots to India.

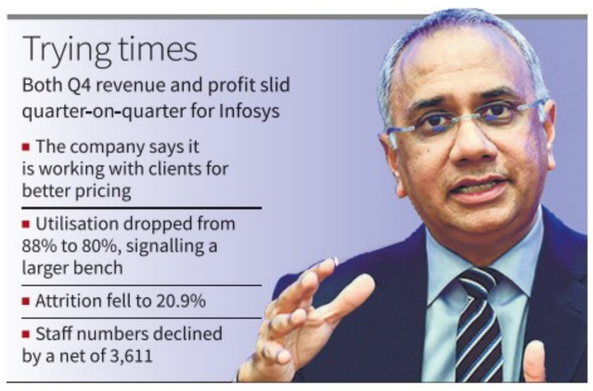
Infosys Q4 profit slides 7% q-on-q, company misses revenue estimate

FY24 revenue growth pegged at 4-7%; Chief Executive Officer Salil Parekh flags uncertain demand environment, cites 'unplanned project ramp-downs with some clients due to delay in decision-making, resulting in lower volumes'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Infosys on Thursday said it recorded an 8% year-on-year increase in fourth-quarter net profit to ₹6,128 crore. Profit fell 7% compared with the preceding quarter. The company has estimated revenue growth of 4-7% for FY24, citing uncertain market conditions.

Revenue grew 16% to ₹37,441 crore in Q4 from a year earlier. but slid 2.3% compared with the December 2022 quarter. In dollar terms, revenue declined 3.2% to $4.55 billion, compared with the year-earlier period. Whole-year revenue in dollars increased 15.4% although the company had estimated 16-16.5% growth. "Infosys delivered a surprisingly weak set of numbers for Q4 and missed street estimates on multiple fronts on the back of unplanned project ramp-downs and cancellation across sectors," said Sanjeev Hota, head of research, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.



'Uncertainty rules'

Salil Parekh, CEO and MD, said uncertainty still ruled the markets. "We have seen unplanned project ramp-downs with some of our clients due to delay in decision-making and that resulted in lower volumes," he said.

Despite challenges, he said, the company bagged deals whose total contract value is worth $2.1 billion, and $9.8 billion in Q4 and in the fiscal, respectively.

The company was also working with clients for better pricing, chief financial officer Nilanjan Roy added.

Infosys reported a drop in utilisation from 88% to 80%. However, attrition fell to 20.9% in. The company also saw a net decline in staff numbers by 3,611.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,431	0.06
US Dollar	81.85	0.31
Gold	61,280	0.32
Brent oil	86.47	-0.60

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1870.75	23.50
Adani Ports	661.65	3.90
Apollo Hosp	4398.30	78.10
Asian Paints	2809.75	23.00
Axis Bank	864.35	13.30
Bajaj Auto	4288.35	2.35
Bajaj Finserv	1341.30	19.75
Bajaj Finance	5904.45	47.50
Bharti Airtel	767.05	-4.05
BPCL	332.25	-5.05
Britannia Ind	4264.20	-7.10
Cipla	915.75	-2.20
Coal India	225.50	-2.20
Divis Lab	3183.95	-28.15
Dr Reddys Lab	4852.90	-28.10
Eicher Motors	3213.05	84.70
Grasim Ind	1701.10	-16.35
HCL Tech	1071.85	-22.65
HDFC	2786.85	17.60
HDFC Bank	1692.45	7.55
HDFC Life	531.85	14.80
Hero MotoCorp	2447.05	-30.25
Hindalco	422.05	4.40
Hind Unilever	2536.20	7.25
ICICI Bank	899.00	8.85
IndusInd Bank	1109.30	34.55
Infosys	1389.20	-39.10
ITC	395.60	2.05
JSW Steel	720.65	2.40
Kotak Bank	1869.50	25.45
L&T	2258.75	-29.75
M&M	1204.55	-2.80
Maruti Suzuki	8670.80	49.75
NestleIndia	19465.35	25.05
NTPC	173.05	-2.75
ONGC	158.75	1.10
PowerGrid Corp	231.20	3.90
Reliance Ind	2355.50	8.85
SBI Life	1130.25	3.40
State Bank	532.95	4.75
Sun Pharma	1003.50	-13.20
TataConsumerProduct	719.60	1.20
Tata Motors	469.50	4.00
Tata Steel	107.50	-0.10
TCS	3188.85	-52.80
Tech Mahindra	1086.85	-23.05
Titan	2585.65	-2.25
UltraTech Cement	7655.25	-27.60
UPL	737.00	-2.90
Wipro	368.30	-3.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.65	81.97
Euro	89.96	90.32
British Pound	102.13	102.54
Japanese Yen (100)	61.26	61.50
Chinese Yuan	11.87	11.92
Swiss Franc	91.61	91.98
Singapore Dollar	61.61	61.86
Canadian Dollar	60.96	61.21
Malaysian Ringitt	18.55	18.64
Australian Dollar	54.93	55.15

Source:Indian Bank

e-invoice: 7-day limit set for select firms

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Businesses with turnover of ₹100 crore and above will have to upload their electronic invoices on the IRP within 7 days of the issue of such invoice with effect from May 1, GST Network has said.

Currently, businesses upload such invoices on Invoice Registration Portal (IRP) on the current date, irrespective of the date of issue of such invoice.

In an advisory to taxpayers, GST Network (GSTN) said the government has decided to impose a time limit on reporting old invoices on the e-invoice IRP portals for taxpayers with aggregate annual turnover greater than or equal to ₹100 crore. "To ensure timely compliance, taxpayers in this category will not be allowed to report invoices older than 7 days on the date of reporting," GSTN said.

In order to provide sufficient time for taxpayers to comply with this requirement, this new format would be implemented from May 1, 2023.

This restriction will apply to invoice, and there will be no time restriction on reporting debit/credit notes, it added.

India Inc. Q4 topline growth to halve to 10-12%: Crisil arm

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Headwinds to exports and a high base were cited as the main reasons for the slowdown

India Inc. is likely to report a halving of revenue growth in the fourth quarter of FY23, a credit rating agency said on Thursday, as companies start reporting their financials.

Revenue growth will come down to 10-12% as against 22.8% for the January-March period a year earlier, Crisil's Market Intelligence and Analytics arm said. For the full fiscal FY23, revenue is estimated to have grown 19-21%, which is slower than the more than 27% growth registered in FY22, it said, adding that operating margin is likely to have moderated by 3 percentage points.

The continuing headwinds to exports, and a high base were cited as the main causes for the sharp slowdown in topline growth for Q4FY23, said Crisil, which analysed 300 companies across 47 sectors to arrive at the expectations.

On the profitability front, operating profit margin is estimated to have improved a tad for the second consecutive quarter – from 19% in the December 2022 quarter to 19-20% during the March 2023 quarter.

"Prices of key energy-linked commodities such as crude oil and non-coking coal seem to have come off their earlier highs and will partially offset the impact of lower global demand," its associate director Sehul Bhatt said.

Corporates are likely to see their profitability improve this fiscal as commodity prices scale down and volumes drive revenue growth, it said.

PV wholesales rose 26.7% to 39 lakh units in FY23, says SIAM

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Domestic passenger vehicle wholesales grew 26.7% to a record high of over 38.9 lakh units in 2022-23, riding on a demand surge for utility vehicles, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said on Thursday.

Dispatches of passenger vehicles (PVs) from manufacturers to dealers stood at 38,90,114 units in the fiscal ended March 31, 2023, compared with 30,69,523 units in 2021-22, as per SIAM's latest data.

The previous highest wholesales of PVs were recorded in 2018-19 at 33,77,436 units. The growth of PV sales in FY23 was led by utility vehicles - 20,03,718 units in FY23 compared with 14,89,219 units in FY22, a growth of 34.55%.

SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal said 2022-23 had been a year of consolidation post-COVID-19, although supply chain disruptions had resumed due to the conflict in Ukraine.

'Rupee trade to help cut transaction cost'

Press Trust of India
ROME

Piyush Goyal

International trade in the domestic currency will help reduce transaction costs for the industry and several countries are in discussion with the RBI on this, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Last year, the RBI and Finance Ministry had asked the top management of banks and representatives of trade bodies to push export and import transactions in the rupee.

Rupee vostro accounts

They wanted banks in India to connect with their foreign counterparts for opening special rupee vostro accounts to facilitate cross-border trade in the Indian currency rather than the popular mode of the U.S. dollar.

Mr. Goyal said today, several countries were realising that there was a need for change in currency and it involved conversion cost which, in turn, raised transaction costs.

"We can address these issues through rupee trade (arrangement)," he added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that my client **Govardhana D. K S/o. Krishnaiah D.C** intends to purchase Schedule Property mentioned below from **RENWICK ANGELO MASCARENHAS S/o. Mr. Rudolph Mascarenhas,** (hereinafter Owner/seller). The Owner/seller represents and warrant that he is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule property and he has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the seller/owner further represents and warrants that he has not encumbered, mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from him no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven(07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of one Penthouse Apartment unit, comprising **Flat No.1201,** measuring the **SBA of 2461SqFt., with Terrace Area of 171 SqFt** with 839 sqft UDS, situated on **12th Floor in Tower-2** with **Two Covered Car Parking** Space in the Basement Floor, in the composite multi-storeyed residential apartment **"OCEANUS VISTA",** constructed on residentially converted land totally measuring 2,21,561 Sq.ft., carved out of Sy.Nos.18, 15/3C, 9/2, 9/6, 9/7, and Sy.Nos.9/8 & 9/1 of Kasavanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, bearing Property No. 4051/ Sy.No.18, 15-3C, 9/2, 9/6, 9/7, & Property No.4110/Sy.No.9/8, of Bellandur Ward under limits of BBMP (Ward No.150).

Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 14-04-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby put to notice that **Sri. M. KRISHNA REDDY,** residing at No. 1144, 14th Main, HSR Layout Sector-III, Bangalore - 560 102., represented that he has lost/misplaced the Original document i.e Auction Sale Deed dated 14/11/2005, registered as Document No. BDA-1-07895-2005-06, stored in C.D. No. BDAD101, registered in the office of Additional District-registrar, Bangalore Urban District with respect to the Schedule Property and he has also lodged a police complaint on 12/04/2023, before the Bengaluru City Police, Bangalore regarding lost/misplaced of above said document.

Any person, entity, firm, financial institution or body corporate, having custody of the lost/misplaced/ document mentioned above or otherwise in respect of the below mentioned Schedule Property, howsoever are hereby required to notify the same in writing along with supporting documentary evidence to the under signed within 7 days from hereof failing which the claim or objection, if any shall be considered as invalid and waived. After 7 days period, certified copies of the above said document shall be secured from the office of Sub-registrar and same will be construed and considered as original sale deeds for all practical and legal purposes. Any claims received beyond 7 days will not be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No. 1172, situated at Sector-II, Hosur Sarjapura Road Layout (also Known as HSR Layout), Bangalore, measuring East to West 24 Meters and North to South measuring 11.00 + 10.40/2 Meters, in all measuring 256.80 Square Meters and bounded on:

East by: 24th Main Road, West by: Site No. 1171, North by: Site No. 1173, South by: Road.

AKSHAY .N, Advocate
No. 3 to 8, First Floor, Abhayashrama Complex, 4th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore-560 027. Ph: 7259833337

PUBLIC NOTICE

(LOST)

My client **Hariom Rai, 2A-801 Divyasree Elan Apt, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore-560035,** was obtained a registered sale deed dated 17:01:2020 from **M/s. BHARTIYA URBAN LIMITED** represented by its duly authorized Signatory **Mr. RAMACHANDRA .A. K.** in respect of the schedule property as mentioned below.

When my client and his family members were out on vacation and on 29:12:2021 caught fire early morning around 5 am and entire top floor of his house burnt down including the documents, Jewellery, furniture, cloths electronic items and many more including the documents in respect of the below mentioned schedule property such as original sale deed dated 17:01:2020, registered as Document No. GAN-1-05196/2019-2020, in CD No. GAND613 of Book I, dated 17:01:2020 in the office of the sub-registrar Gandinagar, Bangalore and other documents .

My client has given a complaint about his house burning down to the Police Inspector, Bellandur Police Station, Bellandur, Bangalore on 31:12:2021 in this regard obtained acknowledgment with Reference No. FAR No. 03/2021 dated 31:12:2021. This notice is for public and to whom so ever it may concern in respect of the schedule property purchaser.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 31405 in fourteenth Floor, of Tower "3", Wing "C" in "NIKOO HOMES" built on schedule "A" property mentioned and farming part of development in "BHARTIYA CITY" and apartment measuring 1595 Sq.Feet of super built up area inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other area of common use, with right to One covered car parking Space in the Lower/upper Basement level.

K. MOHAN, Advocate
No. 64, Ground Floor, 4th Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, BANGALORE-560 038.
Ph.No. 9845234925

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be known to all that my client Ms. Prathima Venugopal, Ms. Srividya Anand Gokhle and Ms. Sumathi Bhaskaran intent to purchase a piece of agricultural land measuring 1 acre 30 Guntas bearing Sy.No. 17/2 (Schedule Property I) and agricultural land measuring 15 Guntas bearing Sy.No. 18/4 (Schedule Property II) situated at Doddacheemanahalli Village, Kundana Hobli & Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District from its owner Ms. Cynthia Clara Dcosta. The details of the Schedule Property I and II are mentioned hereunder.

Any person having rights, title, claim, interest in the set, property, by way of sale, inheritance, possessions, succession, mortgage, lien, gift, or otherwise, howsoever in respect of the same shall intimate the objection in writing to understand. With supporting documents thereof within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publishing this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there are no claims/objections and our client shall proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Properties from the owner.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY I

All that piece and parcel of Agriculture dry land bearing Sy.No. 17/2, measuring 1 Acre, 30 Guntas out of 04 Acre 04 Guntas of land Situated at Doddacheemanahalli Village, Kundana Hobli & Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on:

East by : Land in Sy.No.18, **West by :** Cart Road and Land in Sy.No.7, **North by :** Land in Sy.No. 16, **South by :** Land retained by the Vendor in same Sy.No.17.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY II

All that piece and parcel of Agriculture Dry Land bearing new Sy.No. 18/4 bifurcated from old Sy.No. 18/3, measuring 15 Guntas out of land Situated at Doddacheemanahalli Village, Kundana Hobli & Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on:

East by : Land retained by vendor in the same survey number 18/3, **West by :** Land in Sy.No.7, **North by :** Land in Sy.No. 16, **South by :** Land retained by Muniappa in Sy.No. 18/1.

Sathies Kumar
B.A. LL.B, (Hons), Advocate
#204, Second Floor, 134, Momdi Business Centre, Infantry Road, Bangalore - 560001.
Phone: 8860063400

Ashok Leyland introduces e-marketplace for used CVs

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) has unveiled an e-marketplace for used commercial vehicles (CVs) to aid its customers in liquidating old vehicles for better resale value and upgrading to new ALL trucks and buses with ease.

By leveraging this digital platform, ALL hopes to increase transparency in the otherwise 'disorganised' used-vehicle ecosystem, the firm said. The e-marketplace will offer clients features to easily find vehicles of their choice. Also, in a few simple clicks, sellers can list vehicles for sale.

Bharat Bio watching demand before resuming production

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Covaxin maker Bharat Biotech will wait and watch demand before resuming production of the indigenously-developed Covid-19 vaccine, amid rising Covid-19 cases in India.

"Covaxin is available for supplies based on demand," the Hyderabad-based vaccine maker said. It had, in early 2022, stopped production of Covaxin amid declining offtake for the product.

Also, over the past few months, around 50 million doses of Covaxin had to be destroyed "due to non-procurement, at a great loss for the company," Bharat Biotech said in response to queries. The company's wait-and-watch approach comes even as competitor Serum Institute of India resumed production of its COVID-19 vaccine.

Indicating that resumption of Covaxin production will begin when the need arises, Bharat Biotech said it has 200 million doses of the intra-muscular vaccine. But it is iNCOVACC, its intranasal vaccine, on which the company is upbeat. "There has been several requests for large scale supplies of iNCOVACC. We will develop an antigen bank of 10 million doses as a stockpile," it said.

Back-up broadband plans do not harm DTH: Jio

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio denied claims its 'back-up broadband' offering threatened the broadcast market, in a letter to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

The April 6 response, of which *The Hindu* has viewed a copy, dismissed Bharti Airtel's allegation the inexpensively-priced broadband – introduced in conjunction with the Indian Premier League – was encroaching upon the television broadcast market.

"Airtel's sole grouse is Jio Fiber is offering reasonable tariffs to customers," Jio wrote in the letter.

THE COURT OF THE XCI ADDL, CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AND SPECIAL JUDGE FOR KPIDFE ACT AT BENGALURU

BETWEEN : **Misc No.281/2023**

The Competent Authority,
for M/s. Ambidant Marketing Private Limited, 3rd Floor, Mini V.V.Tower, Podium Block, Dr.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001. Rep by its Competent Authority, Dr. Ashok D.R, Joint Secretary .... Petitioner
AND
M/s. Ambidant Marketing Private Limited, Regd Office: at No.9A, K.H.B. Main Road, Kanakanagara, R.T.Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560032. (Registered vide No. CIN U74999KA2016PTC98612 by RoC, Koramangala, Bangalore) Represented by its Managing Director Syed Fareed Ahmed S/o. D.S.Jalaluddin, Aged 58 years, Presently he is in Kanpur City District Jail, Address at : The Jail Superintendent, Kanpur City District Jail, Kanpur City, Uttar Pradesh. and one another. ..... Respondents

Notice to Respondent No. 2

2) Mr. Mohammed Ashraf S/o Mohammed Yousuf Aged about 36 years Residing at : No. 4, 1st Cross, 3rd Floor, SBM Colony, Mathikere, Bangalore - 560054.

Whereas, the petitioner has filed the above petition under section 5(2) of the KPIDFE Act 2004 against Respondent.

The Respondent No.2 is hereby issued show cause notice u/s 12 (1) of KPIDFE Act 2004, to appear in court of the XCI Addl City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-92) at Bengaluru, in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to above petitions on **22nd May 2023 at 11.00 'o' Clock** in the forenoon.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date above mentioned petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this day **10th April 2023.**

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sd/- Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/07/Zenkar/2023-24 **Sri Venkatesh P. Dalwai.,** Special Public Prosecutor

THE COURT OF THE XCI ADDL, CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AND SPECIAL JUDGE FOR KPIDFE ACT AT BENGALURU

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M/s. Ambidant Marketing Private Limited, Regd Office: at No.9A, K.H.B. Main Road, Kanakanagara, R.T.Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560032. (Registered vide No. CIN U74999KA2016PTC98612 by RoC, Koramangala, Bangalore) Represented by its Managing Director Syed Fareed Ahmed S/o. D.S.Jalaluddin, Aged 58 years, Presently he is in Kanpur City District Jail, Address at : The Jail Superintendent, Kanpur City District Jail, Kanpur City, Uttar Pradesh. and one another. ..... Respondents

Notice to Respondent No. 2

2) Mrs. Reshma Begum D/o Late Asadullah Khan Aged about 41 years Residing at : No. 18, 2nd Cross, Samadhana Nagar, Kudgodanahalli, Bangalore - 560045.

Whereas, the petitioner has filed the above petition under section 5(2) of the KPIDFE Act 2004 against Respondent.

The Respondent No.2 is hereby issued show cause notice u/s 12 (1) of KPIDFE Act 2004, to appear in court of the XCI Addl City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-92) at Bengaluru, in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to above petitions on **22nd May 2023 at 11.00 'o' Clock** in the forenoon.

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Sd/- Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/08/Zenkar/2023-24 **Sri Venkatesh P. Dalwai.,** Special Public Prosecutor

SHOWING PROGRESS

Working with Malinga paying off for pacer Sandeep

Sandeep Sharma's last over spell guided Rajasthan Royals to its third win in this season's IPL against CSK in Chennai. Sandeep credited Lasith Malinga for his success in death overs in a video posted by IPL's Twitter handle. "I have been working with him (Malinga) on yorkers and it is coming out nicely," he said.

READY TO DELIVER

I don't think Russell is underperforming, says Ferguson

Andre Russell may have had a quiet campaign so far in the IPL but Lockie Ferguson believes his KKR teammate will turn things around against Sunrisers on Friday. "I don't think Andre is underperforming. He played well in the first game, then he had a couple of early dismissals. I'm sure he will put a show for us tomorrow."

LANDMARK

Ravindra Jadeja completes 200 wickets in T20 cricket

CSK all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja completed 200 wickets in T20 cricket on Wednesday. Jadeja accomplished this feat during his side's IPL match against Rajasthan Royals in Chennai. In the match, Jadeja was once again the leading bowler for CSK, taking two for 21 in his four overs at an economy rate of 5.20.

IN THE DOCK

Ashwin fined for breaching IPL code of conduct

RR off-spinner R. Ashwin was on Thursday fined 25% of his match fee for breaching Article 2.7 of the IPL's code of conduct — relating to "public criticism of, or inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in a match or any player, team official, match official" — after his side's win against CSK on Wednesday.

Fifty for 'home boy' Gill sets up Titans' victory; second consecutive loss for Dhawan's Kings

The opener's 49-ball 67 headlines the Gujarat chase, while Mohit's player-of-the match-winning figures of two for 18 helps Hardik & Co. to bounce back from the KKR upset

IPL-16

Ayan Acharya
MOHALI

Gujarat Titans defeated Punjab Kings by six wickets in the IPL on Thursday, thanks to the visitor's all-round bowling performance and the host's egregious batting display.

Chasing 154 at the I.S. Bindra Stadium here, Titans matched Kings' PowerPlay haul of 52 with an over to spare, riding on opener Wriddhiman Saha's 18-ball 30.

Kagiso Rabada, replacing Nathan Ellis in the playing XI, removed Saha for his 100th IPL wicket.

Down to the wire

But in a touch of irony for the Punjab side, the run chase was anchored by a man hailing from its own land, Shubman Gill.

The effervescent right-hander drove and cut effortlessly, and the lightening quick outfield did the rest as the Titans rode on his 49-ball 67 to get back to winning ways.

Sam Curran gave the Titans a brief scare when, with seven needed off six, he dismissed Gill to make it six needed off four.

All class: Gill posed tough questions to the Kings' bowling arsenal with his placements and signature shots, breaking into the race for the Orange Cap along the way. R.V. MOORTHY

But Rahul Tewatia sealed the deal with a boundary.

Earlier, Mohit Sharma returned to the IPL for the first time since 2020 and finished with two for 18 from his four overs, dismissing Jitesh Sharma and Curran.

Bowling first, the Titans had only needed two balls to get going on a pitch that offered encouragement in terms of carry and seam movement to go alongside early swing.

While Mohammad Shami hit the good length in his first spell, Josh Little pitched the ball up.

It was déjà vu for Punjab Kings as Tewatia once again closed a chase against the side with a boundary, like he did in the 2022 edition with two sixes

Pursuit of cohesion

Prabhsimran Singh was the first to depart when he pushed an innocuous ball from Shami in the first over to Rashid Khan at short midwicket.

Three overs later, Dhawan miscued a lofted drive off Little to be caught at mid-on.

But Matthew Short's 24-ball 36, studded with six fours and six, ensured the Kings soared to 52 for two after six overs despite Titans bowling 21 dot balls in that phase.

Short briefly had designs on a maiden IPL fifty but the introduction of his Adelaide Strikers teammate, Rashid (one for 26), in the seventh over put paid to those dreams.

What followed was an hour of slow torture for the Kings to endure and everyone present at the Mohali stadium knew that, from thereon, big hits were likely to be an aberration than the norm.

Titans bowled pace on and pace off and spin in and spin away to effectively choke the scoring rate, with Shahrukh Khan's cameo, a nine-ball 22, proving to be a silver lining that ultimately paled into insignificance on a disappointing night for the host.

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS

Prabhsimran Singh c Rashid b Shami 0 *(2b)*, Shikhar Dhawan c Joseph b Little 8 *(8b, 2x4)*, Matthew Short b Rashid 36 *(24b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Bhanuka Rajapaksa c Gill b Joseph 20 *(26b, 1x4)*, Jitesh Sharma c Saha b Mohit 25 *(23b, 5x4)*, Sam Curran c Gill b Mohit 22 *(22b, 1x4, 1x6)*, M. Shahrukh Khan run out 22 *(9b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Harpreet Brar (not out) 8 *(5b, 1x6)*, Rishi Dhawan run out 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-9): 11; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 153.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Prabhsimran, 0.2 overs), 2-28 (Dhawan, 3.2), 3-55 (Short, 6.4), 4-92 (Jitesh, 12.2), 5-115 (Rajapaksa, 16.5), 6-136 (Curran, 18.1), 7-152 (Shahrukh, 19.4), 8-153 (Rishi, 19.6).

TITANS BOWLING

Shami 4-0-44-1, Little 4-0-31-1, Joseph 4-0-32-1, Rashid 4-0-26-1, Mohit 4-0-18-2.

GUJARAT TITANS

Wriddhiman Saha c Short b Rabada 30 *(19b, 5x4)*, Shubman Gill b Curran 67 *(49b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Sai Sudharsan c Prabhsimran b Arshdeep 19 *(20b, 2x4)*, Hardik Pandya c Curran b Brar 8 *(11b, 1x4)*, David Miller (not out) 17 *(18b, 1x4)*, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 5 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-8): 8; Total (for four wkts. in 19.5 overs): 154.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-48 (Saha, 4.4), 2-89 (Sudharsan, 11.2), 3-106 (Hardik, 14.2), 4-148 (Gill, 19.2).

KINGS BOWLING

Arshdeep 4-0-33-1, Rabada 4-0-36-1, Brar 4-0-20-1, Curran 3.5-0-25-1, Chahar **(Impact Player in place of Rajapaksa)** 3-0-24-0, Short 1-0-8-0.

Toss: Titans.
PoM: Mohit.
Titans won by six wickets with one ball to spare.

Next assignment

PBKS: April 15 **vs. LSG**
Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

GT: April 16 **vs. RR**
Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

KKR takes on SRH, aims to make it three-in-a-row

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Having recorded two back-to-back wins, a spirited Kolkata Knight Riders will look forward to securing its third successive win when it meets Sunrisers Hyderabad in a home Indian Premier League match at the Eden Gardens here on Friday.

After scoring 200-plus aggregate twice, KKR has gathered some momentum. It will expect its new star finisher Rinku, who incredibly hit five consecutive sixes in the last over to deflate defending champion Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad, to showcase his fireworks in another memorable win and entertain an exuberant Eden Gardens, which has already seen a run feast in the first match.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Venkatesh Iyer and captain Nitish Rana will be the other key batters for KKR.

The availability of Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das will widen KKR's options.

The host will want its pace battery, including Umesh Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Tim Southee and all-rounder Shardul Thakur, to live up to its billing and its spinners, including Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarthy and stylish rookie Suyash Sharma, to display their magic again.

High expectations: KKR will want its new star finisher Rinku to showcase his fireworks in another memorable win. VIJAY SONEJI

Despite its not-so-impressive head-to-head record against the host (KKR 6 wins, SRH 2) at the Eden, SRH will be confident after securing its first victory against Punjab Kings.

Support needed

Its top run-getter Rahul Tripathi will need more support from fellow batters such as Mayank Agarwal, Aiden Markram, Abdul Samad, Harry Brook and Heinrich Klaasen.

SRH's known all-rounders, including Abhishek Sharma, Marco Jansen and Washington Sundar, and capable bowlers, including Mayank Markande, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umran Malik and Adil Rashid, will be keen to raise their game and check KKR's progress.

Today's match

KKR vs SRH

Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 23

KKR 15 | SRH 8

PREVIOUS MEETING

KKR won by **54 runs**, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

Looking at deceiving batters a lot more with flight: Ashwin

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

From 2009 to 2015, R. Ashwin was an integral part of the Chennai Super Kings set-up and played a vital role in the team's early success.

On Wednesday, the home-town hero was up against a partisan crowd at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium and produced a fine all-round performance (30 & two for 25) to help Rajasthan Royals fashion a three-run win against his former team.

At his best

Putting his knowledge of the conditions to good use, Ashwin was at his best taking two crucial wickets of Ajinkya Rahane and Shivam Dube – both good batters against the spinners.

He first got Rahane leg-before with a carrom ball when the batter tried to go for a big sweep before dismissing Dube similarly with a clever piece of bowling.

After being hit down the ground by the left-hander, Ashwin spun one sharply past Dube before getting the next one to go straight with the arm. Dube, playing for the turn, hung his bat out and was beaten on the inside edge of the bat.

Solid performance: R. Ashwin's all-round show clinched Royals a narrow win over Super Kings. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Even though replays showed it was missing the stumps, Dube – who did not review the decision – quickly walked away in anger, knowing the wily off-spinner had outfoxed him.

He later gave only four runs in the crucial 16th over against M.S. Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja.

The set-up

"I knew he (Dube) would come after me because he is their designated spin hitter for CSK, but I didn't have any deliberate plans. I feel the ball is coming out really well, and I am able to get it to drop. I can use both my variations, my length, and arm ball, and the length is at the moment really good," Ashwin explained about the second wicket.

"I am just really enjoying my bowling and looking at deceiving the batsmen a lot more in the flight. That is because of where I find myself with the ball," he added.

On a day when the whole stadium wanted Dhoni to celebrate his 200th match as CSK's skipper with a win, it was the former Super King who stood tall and made the difference.

We are operating on thin resources: Fleming

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming fretted over the injuries to key players after pacer Sisanda Magala walked off the field, hurting his hand during the team's three-run loss to Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday.

"For us again, it's losing another player; that's two games in a row, and we're already pretty thin, so we would like it to stop. Magala's hand was split, so he could not bowl those last two overs. And the same with Deepak Chahar in the previous game, so we are operating on pretty thin resources," said Fleming.

"It is not ideal. The captain had to think on his feet, so Moeen Ali had to bowl, and he hadn't had a great day," explained the former New Zealand skipper on how Magala's absence hurt his side.

Fleming also revealed M.S. Dhoni is nursing a knee injury which was hindering his movement.

Fleming added: "We stuttered through the middle period, and it took some pretty good hitting, in the end, to get us close, but that is not how you want to chase.

"They have world-class spinners who bowled well, and we came up against a team that is pretty well matched for us."

Points Table

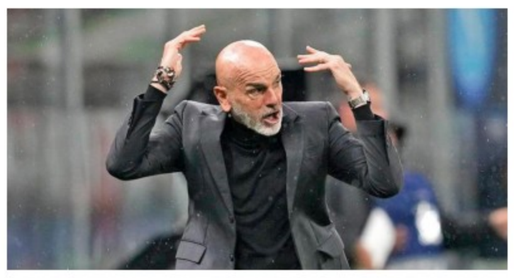
	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	4	3	1	6	1.588
Lucknow Super Giants	4	3	1	6	1.048
Gujarat Titans	4	3	1	6	0.341
Kolkata Knight Riders	3	2	1	4	1.375
Chennai Super Kings	4	2	2	4	0.225
Punjab Kings	4	2	2	4	-0.226
Royal Challengers Bangalore	3	1	2	2	-0.800
Mumbai Indians	3	1	2	2	-0.879
Sunrisers Hyderabad	3	1	2	2	-1.502
Delhi Capitals	4	0	4	0	-1.576

After the PBKS-GT match on April 13

INBRIEF

Bayern suspends Mane after bust up with Sane

Bayern Munich has suspended forward Sadio Mane for one game following an altercation with Leroy Sane after this week's Champions League loss to Manchester City, the club announced on Thursday. "Sadio Mane, 31, will not be in the FC Bayern squad for the home game against 1899 Hoffenheim next Saturday," Bayern said. "The reason is misconduct by Mane after FC Bayern's Champions League game at Manchester City."



Milan's Pioli regrets only scoring once against Napoli

Stefano Pioli said that AC Milan should have given itself more than a one-goal lead in its Champions League quarterfinal derby with Napoli. "It's the only regret we have, we should have been more clear-headed," Pioli told reporters. "It's a shame but they gave a lot. It's a good result after a good performance, let's hope for the next one."

Balaji & Jeevan enter Madrid Challenger quarterfinals

Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan defeated Evgeny Karlovskiy and Alexander Shevchenko 7-6(6), 6-4 to make the quarterfinals of the €73,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Madrid.

The results: €73,000 Challenger, Split (Croatia): Doubles (quarterfinals): Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth w/o Diego Hidalgo (Ecu) & Cristian Rodriguez (Col).
$25,000 ITF men, Sharm El Sheikh: First round: Samuel Vincent Ruggeri (Ita) bt Mukund Sasikumar 6-4, 6-4.
$25,000 ITF women, Bujumbura: Pre-quarterfinals: Tiffany William (GBR) bt Smriti Bhasin 6-3, 6-1; **Doubles (quarterfinals):** Ksenia Laskutova & Fanny Ostlund (Swe) bt Sravya Shivani & Tiffany William (GBR) 6-4, 6-2.

Indian shooting team for Junior World Cup named

Abhinav Shaw, Simranjeet Kaur Brar, Shardul Vihan, Sabeera Haris and Preeti Rajak will be some of the leading shooters in the 39-member Indian team for the Junior World Cup to be staged in Suhl, Germany, from June 1 to 6.

The teams: Rifle: Saalim, Abhinav Shaw, Dhanush Srikanth, Harsh Singla, Ramanya Tomer, Parikshit Singh Brar, Swati Chowdhury, Gautami Bhanot, Sonam Maskar, Nikita Kundu, Nupur Kumarwat, Sharanya Lakhan.
Pistol: Abhinav Chaudhary, Shubham Bisla, Amit Sharma, Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu, Sameer Ghulia, Jatin, Swaraj Bhondave, Amanrpeet Singh, Meshaak Ponnudurai, Sainyam Suruchi, Urva Chaudhary, Megana Sadula, Payal, Simranpreet Kaur Brar.
Trap: Bakhtiyaruddin Malek, Aryanvansh Tyagi, Shardul Vihan, Sabeera Haris, Preeti Rajak, Bhavya Tripathi.
Skeet: Rituraj Bundela, Harmehar Singh Lally, Abhay Singh Sekhon, Raiza Dhillon, Sanjana Sood, Zahra Mufaddal Deesawala.

Ministry approves Sable's training in Switzerland

The Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) has approved Commonwealth Game silver medallist steeplechase runner Avinash Sable's training tour of St. Moritz (Switzerland) to prepare for this year's World athletics championships. The expenditure will be covered under the ministry's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

LIVE TELECAST

World Chess championship: FIDE & *Chess.com YouTube* channels, 2.30 p.m. onwards
ATP Monte Carlo Masters: Sony LIV, 2.30 p.m.
Super Cup football: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 5 & 8.30 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Pakistan vs New Zealand: 1st T20I, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.30 p.m.
Serie A: Jio Cinema App, 10 p.m. & Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.15 a.m. (Saturday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Madrid in cruise control against a struggling Chelsea with Benzema, Asensio on target

Algerian midfielder Bennacer gives AC Milan a slim, one-goal advantage in its all-Italian quarterfinal against a 10-man Napoli

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Karim Benzema and Marco Asensio struck for Real Madrid as it dominated 10-man Chelsea and opened up a 2-0 Champions League quarterfinal first leg lead on Wednesday.

The record 14-time winner and reigning champion eased to a comfortable win against Frank Lampard's side, which had Ben Chilwell sent off in the second half for pulling down Rodrygo Goes as he ran through on goal.

Benzema netted from close range after 21 minutes after Kepa Arrizabalaga tipped a Vinicius Junior effort into his path.

The difference maker: Bennacer rifles in Milan's winner against Napoli. AP

Despite controlling the game, Madrid had to wait until the 74th minute for its second, with Asensio drilling home from the edge of the box after a short corner routine.

In a battle between the last two Champions League winners, Madrid demonstrated its strength with an impressive display, while Chelsea showed why it is struggling in 11th in the Premier League.

Carlo Ancelotti, who coached Lampard at Chelsea between 2009-2011, relied on veteran midfielders Toni Kroos and Luka Modric to pull the strings.

Lampard, in his second game at the helm since replacing Graham Potter last week, threw Thiago Silva and N'Golo Kante straight into the starting line-up after injury worries.

The one postive
Kante shone against Madrid in the 2021 semis as Chelsea beat it en route to winning the trophy for the second time, and he was one positive for Lampard, slipping Joao Felix through on goal at the start.

Ismael Bennacer gave AC Milan a slim advantage in its all-Italian quarterfinal against Napoli with the only goal in Wednesday's tight 1-0 first-leg win.

Algeria midfielder Bennacer lashed in the decisive strike five minutes before half-time of an engaging contest at a packed, loud and wet San Siro after Brahim Diaz and Rafael Leao combined brilliantly.

The 25-year-old's strike ensured Milan's second win over Italy's champion-elect Napoli in less than a fortnight and a narrow lead to defend at Stadio Maradona in Naples next week.

Napoli, which had Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa sent off in the 74th minute, should have Victor Osimhen back for the second leg on Tuesday and without its star striker Luciano Spalletti's team got nothing despite having plenty of chances.

The results (quarterfinals, first leg): AC Milan 1 (Bennacer 40) bt Napoli 0; Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 22, Asensio 74) bt Chelsea 0.

Aizawl capitulates to Odisha after fighting valiantly in the first half

SUPER CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MANJERI

Aizawl FC put up a fight in the first half, but crumbled in the second against the relentless onslaught from the Odisha FC frontline in a Group B match in the Super Cup on Thursday. Odisha won 3-0, through goals from Diego Mauricio, Víctor Rodriguez and Nandha Kumar.

After the 1-1 draw with East Bengal it was a badly-needed win for Odisha. For Aizawl, it was its second defeat in a row.

The I-League team from Mizoram looked confident though in the opening half. It defended well and goalkeeper Vanlal Hriatpuia bought off some excellent saves, too.

Attacking play: Diego Mauricio opened up the scoring for Odisha FC. PHOTO: SAKEER HUSSAIN

After the break, the Odisha men showed even more urgency in its attack. Two minutes into the second half, Diego put them ahead, following a corner-kick taken by Denechandra Meitei.

Aniket Jadhav's first attempt should have been put away out of the danger by one of the three Aizawl men at the goalline, but none did, and Diego wasn't going to waste that opportunity. Eight minutes later, a fine move initiated on the right flank by Aniket was finished off with precision by Rodriguez.

In the injury time, substitute Nandha Kumar scored off a deflection to make it 3-0, and it easily could have been 4-0 but Hriatpuia stopped the penalty kick from Diego.

Later, East Bengal and Hyderabad FC played out a thrilling 3-3 draw. It was a fine comeback by Hyderabad after trailing 1-3 at half-time.

Naorem Mahesh Singh with a brace and V. Suhair had put East Bengal ahead before Hyderabad responded magnificently.

The result: Odisha FC 3 (Diego Mauricio 47, Víctor Rodriguez 55, Nandha Kumar 90+3) bt Aizawl FC 0.
East Bengal 3 (Naorem Mahesh Singh 4 & 45, V.P. Suhair 17) drew with Hyderabad FC 3 (Javier Siverio 11 & 71, Abdul Rabeeh 83).

Sehrawat claims maiden Asian title

WRESTLING

Sports Bureau

Aman Sehrawat defeated Kyrgyzstan's Almaz Smanbekov 9-4 in the final to emerge as the men's 57kg freestyle champion at the Asian wrestling championships in Astana on Thursday.

Aman, the World under-23 champion, took some time to gather a one-point lead when Almaz was put on the activity clock. The Kyrgyz wrestler fought back through a takedown to lead 2-1, but Aman relied on his attacking game to return the favour and led 3-2 after the first period.

Aman employed a double leg attack to gather two more points but conceded two points as well.

The Indian showed his relentless attacks to secure four more points. Even though picked up an injury above his right eye when 39 seconds were left, Aman remained calm and completed the fight to claim his maiden Asian title.

Earlier, Aman went past Japan's Rikuto Arai 7-1 and China's Wanhao Zou 7-4 on his way to the final.

Deepak (79kg) picked up a bronze for India. He beat Mongolia's Byambadorj Bat Erdene 4-1 but lost 0-10 to Uzbek Bekzod Abdulrakhmonov in the semi-finals. Deepak outsmarted Tajikistan's Shuhrat Bozorov 12-1 in the bronze medal match.

Commonwealth Games medallist Deepak Nehra (97kg) lost his bronze medal match 9-12 to Uzbekistan's Makhsud Veysalov.

Struff ends Ruud's winning streak to enter quarterfinals

On a roll: Struff has enjoyed a good start to the season and returned to the Top 100 last month REUTERS

TENNIS

Associated Press
MONACO

Jan-Lennard Struff reached the quarterfinals of the Monte Carlo Masters on Thursday with a 6-1, 7-6(6) win over fourth-seeded Casper Ruud as the German qualifier took another step in his comeback from an injury.

Having been ranked 29th, Struff dropped as low as as No. 168 after sustaining a foot fracture last year during a match in Miami, an injury that left him sidelined for more than two months.

Struff has enjoyed a good start to the season and returned to the Top 100 last month but had not beaten anyone in the Top 10 this year before taking on Ruud at the Country Club.

His aggressive style of play resulted in 37 winners and 23 points won at the net against Ruud, who dropped his serve four times.

Struff ended Ruud's nine-match winning streak on clay.

Seventh-seeded Jannick Sinner came from behind and saved a match point to get past No. 10-seeded Hubert Hurkacz 3-6, 7-6(6), 6-1. Sixth-seeded Holger Rune advanced to the quarterfinals without playing when Matteo Berrettini withdrew due to an injury.

China beats India, keep its qualification chances alive

Sports Bureau

China beat India 3-0 to regain its chance of winning one of the two qualification spots in the Asia-Oceania Billie Jean King Cup tennis tournament in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on Thursday.

Rutuja Bhosale put up a good fight before being beaten 6-3, 7-5 by Jiang Xinyu. In the second singles, Yuan Yue dropped six games in beating Ankita Raina.

With every win being crucial in the round-robin format, China pressed hard through Jiang Xinyu and Yang Zhaoxuan to win the doubles and sweep the tie.

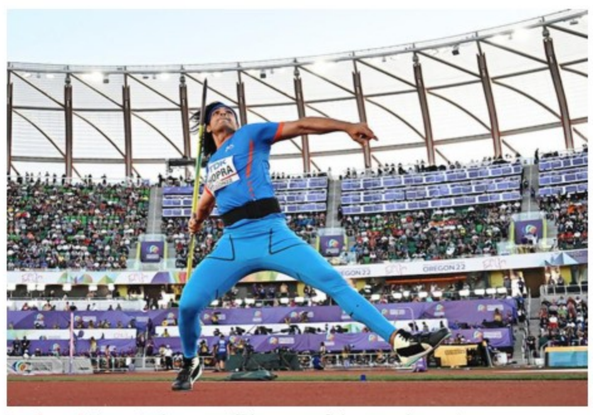
After having lost to Korea, China had to step it up. It climbed back to the second spot behind Japan, which maintained its undefeated record by crushing host Uzbekistan 3-0.

Korea had its share of problems as it was beaten 3-0 by Thailand.

India will next challenge Japan on Friday.

The results (league): China bt India 3-0 (Jiang Xinyu bt Rutuja Bhosale 6-3, 7-5; Yuan Yue bt Ankita Raina 7-5, 6-1; Jiang Xinyu & Yang Zhaoxuan bt Shrivalli Bhamidipalli & Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-0, 6-1).

Neeraj Chopra to start season at Doha Diamond League



Let's go! Neeraj Chopra will be one of the top draws in a star-studded field. AFP

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will begin his season at the Diamond League meeting in Doha on May 5, as one of the top draws in a star-studded field.

The 25-year-old Chopra, the reigning Diamond League champion after winning the grand finale in September last, will join world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada and Olympic silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic in the first meet of the 14-leg one-day series of the season.

Chopra, who has a personal best of 89.94m which he achieved while finishing second at last year's Stockholm Diamond League meeting, is currently training in Turkey.

One of the targets for Chopra this year will be to cross the 90m mark.

"I'm also getting closer to the 90m mark, so it would mean a lot for me to break that barrier," he said.

"While last year was a good year for me with a new personal best, world silver medal, and the win of the Wanda Diamond League, this year brings new opportunities.

"My goal for this summer is the World Championships, alongside the Asian Games and the defence of my Wanda Diamond League title."

Triathlon greenlights return of Russians to competition

Agence France Presse
PARIS

World Triathlon on Thursday opened the way for athletes from Russia and Belarus, banned from competition since March 2022 after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, to once again compete in its competitions.

The executive board of the global governing body of triathlon said it supported the recommendation by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of a "return to competition of athletes with Russian and Belarusian passports in international competitions".

Support
"In principle, World Triathlon supports the development of a pathway for independent neutral individual Athletes and Officials with Russian and Belarusian passports to participate in our sports."

Triathlon follows the path of fencing, table tennis and taekwondo in approving a return for athletes from Russia and Belarus, while they remained banned from athletics and equestrian sports.